

Radical Cleric

LONDON (AP) — Radical preacher Abu Hamza al-Masri and four other terror suspects who fought for years to avoid facing charges in the United States lost their grounds for appeal and were flown to the U.S. from Britain late Friday, officials said.

The U.S. Embassy said it was pleased with the ruling earlier Friday by Britain's High Court, and Scotland Yard said the five departed from an air force base in eastern England just before midnight on two jets bound for

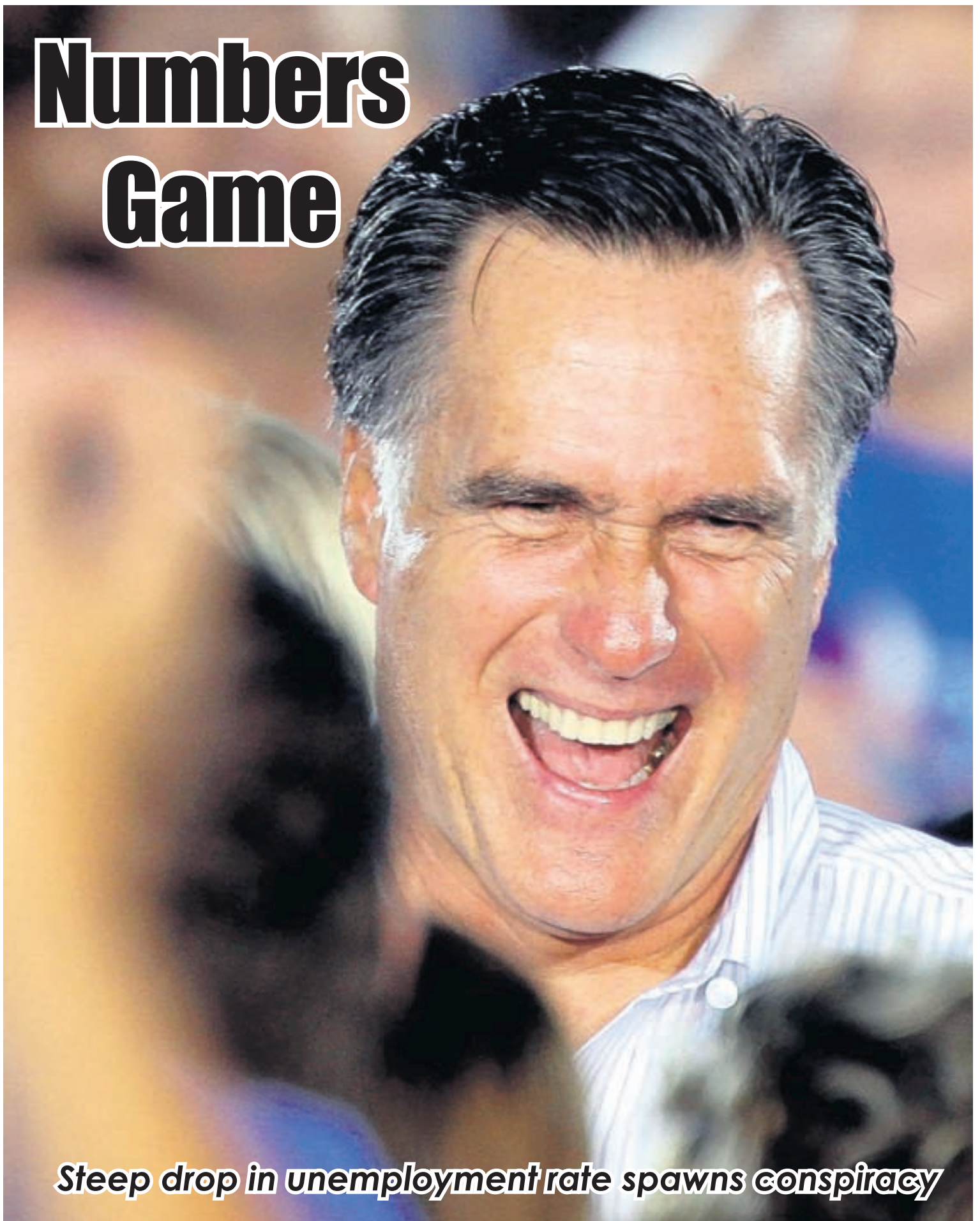


Police vehicles reported to be carrying Abu Hamza leaves Long Lartin Prison in Worcestershire, central England Friday Oct. 5, 2012.
(AP Photo/Rui Vieira/PA Wire)

the U.S. Judges John Thomas and Duncan Ouseley rejected last-ditch applications by al-Masri, Khaled al-Fawwaz, Babar Ahmad, Adel Abdul Bary and Syed Talha Ahsan, who had been battling extradition for between eight and 14 years. Thomas said there were no grounds for any further delay, noting that it was "in the interest of justice that those accused of very serious crimes, as each of these claimants is in these proceedings, are tried as quickly as possible as is consistent with the interests of justice."

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Numbers Game



Steep drop in unemployment rate spawns conspiracy

Republican Presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney laughs as he speaks to a supporter after a campaign speech Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, in St. Petersburg, Fla. While Romney didn't directly discredit the government data putting the U.S. unemployment rate at 7.8 percent on Friday, its lowest since 2009, there were plenty of conservatives who did that work for him.

(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

**CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Business Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conspiracy theorists came out

in force after the government reported a sudden drop in the U.S. unemployment rate one month before Election Day. Their

message: The Obama administration would do anything to ensure a November victory, including manipulating unemployment

ment data. The conspiracy was widely rejected.



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Sunday:

Shadow of Venezuelan military hangs over election

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's military could end up being the decisive power broker in Sunday's presidential vote, especially if President Hugo Chavez stumbles in his fight to stay in power against the most formidable foe he's faced.

Chavez has spent nearly 14 years consolidating control over state institutions, but ultimately only the military has the clout to determine who prevails if the election results are close and disputed.

The opposition contends Chavez has already been employing the military in a political role, in violation of the constitution. His challenger, Henrique Capriles, tweeted a photo this week showing soldiers appearing to shed olive-green fatigue tops in favor of the red T-shirts worn by the "Chavistas" who crowd the president's rallies.

"In my government nobody will be obliged to don the T-shirt of a political party, least of all our soldiers!" Capriles wrote, emphasizing the military's potentially crucial postelection role.

The information ministry didn't respond to requests for comment on the claim by the opposition, which has long voiced concerns about Chavez packing the military leadership with loyalists.

"The armed forces will be

the key arbiter of the election process," said Diego Moya-Ocampos, an analyst with IHS Global Insight. He said that will be especially true if Capriles man-

ned Chavez in 2002 for two days. Both times, the coup failed because the bulk of the military refused to join. Before that, the last successful military rebellion was

officers who form the core of the 125,000-strong military would accept the voters' choice.

The chairman of Venezuela's joint chiefs, Gen. Wilmer

been on state-run TV all week, here touring a remodeled military hospital, there touting auto repair shops that he said the government plans to create under partial military control.

In late 2010, Rangel angered many Venezuelans by saying neither the military nor the public would accept an opposition election victory over Chavez. The president later defended the general.

Rangel made headlines again this week with a claim that Capriles plans to dismantle the armed forces.

Capriles, a center-left former governor, had just announced that he had chosen an active general, whom he did not identify, to be his defense minister.

That indicated the military leadership is not entirely in lockstep with Chavez's populist rule, which human rights groups say has consistently violated the civil liberties of its foes.

A recently retired senior general who supports the opposition told The Associated Press that dozens of officers, including generals, remain on active duty but without assigned jobs, effectively shunted aside in favor of Chavez's political loyalists.

"There's great turmoil in the institution," said the retired officer, who agreed to discuss the situation only if not quoted by name, because he feared reprisals from the government. □



Venezuela's Defense Minister Gen. Henry Rangel Silva, left, President Hugo Chavez, second from left, and outgoing Defense Minister Gen. Carlos Mata Figueroa, third from left, attend Rangel Silva's swearing-in ceremony at the Fort Tiuna military base in Caracas, Venezuela. The shadow of the Venezuelan military hangs over Sunday's presidential election, with many people wondering how the armed forces might react if Chavez stumbles in his fight to stay in power.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

ages to eke out a narrow victory and Chavez's side resists.

Chavez's own history shows how crucial, and divided, the military can be.

As a 37-year-old lieutenant colonel, he led a failed 1992 coup attempt that catapulted him to fame. A decade later, after he was pardoned and elected president, some officers joined in a plot that ousted

in 1958, when troops backing a popular revolt ousted President Marcos Perez Jimenez, who had seized power in a coup. It was an era when coups were common across Latin America. There is little tolerance for them now.

Retired military officers say there are deep divisions within the armed forces. But they believe many of the roughly 8,500 rank-and-file

Barrientos, said on national television last month that the military would "heed the constitution and respect the will of the people" in Sunday's vote.

But some Chavistas in the military high command haven't been acting impartially as another six-year term for their boss hangs in the balance.

The defense minister, Gen. Henry Rangel Silva, has

Panetta says new era for U.S. in South America

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — Defense Secretary Leon Panetta

said Friday the U.S. has moved into a new era in South America and is no longer the sole provider of security in the hemisphere. Arriving in Peru, Panetta plans to offer to send U.S. defense experts to Lima to help the nation improve its military planning.

And he will meet with defense leaders from across the continent in Uruguay, where they will unveil a new program to better coordinate disaster assistance in the region.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him, Panetta said the broader goal is for America to work with nations in the region to help them better develop their military capabilities and provide for their own se-

curity. The key issues are counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, and drug and human trafficking.

This is his second trip to South America this year, as Panetta works to expand U.S. military cooperation in the region and build on relationships that also can help shore up America's interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

The offer to Peru will be the opportunity to participate in an advisory program that would send an American expert to the country for a year or two to work with them on planning, budgets, procurement and training.

A defense official traveling with Panetta said that while Panetta will make the formal offer, the two countries have been discussing the program and Peru has expressed interest in expanding its current, more limited

exchange program with the U.S.

Panetta will then travel to

and South America. The ministers will take initial steps to set up a new data-

The database would allow countries to list the types of aid they are ready to provide and allow the affected nation to choose, in order to avoid duplication and better meet the most urgent needs.

Officials have said that while there was a lot of assistance sent to Haiti, it wasn't well coordinated and there was a lot of duplication. Defense officials are hoping that the database would solve some of those problems.

In his visit to Colombia, Brazil and Chile earlier this year, Panetta underscored their importance as military partners in the Pacific, where China is challenging U.S. influence in a number of countries.

As those defense relationships grow, officials say it can only help U.S. economic and political ties across South America. □



U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, right, speaks to the media aboard his aircraft. Panetta said Friday, October 5th, 2012, that the U.S. has moved into a new era in South America and is no longer the sole provider of security in the hemisphere.

(AP Photo/Larry Downing, Pool)

the seaside resort of Punta del Este in Uruguay for a meeting of defense ministers from Canada, North

base that will help organize and coordinate humanitarian relief efforts in the event of a disaster in the region.

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Steep drop in unemployment rate spawns conspiracy

Continued from front

Officials at the Labor Department said the jobs figures are calculated by highly trained government employees without any political interference. Democrats and even some Republicans said they also found the charges implausible. Yet that didn't stop the chatter. The allegations were a measure of how politicized the monthly unemployment report has become near the end of a campaign that has focused on the economy and jobs. The conspiracy erupted after former General Electric CEO Jack Welch, a Republican, tweeted his skepticism five minutes af-

ter the Labor Department announced that the unemployment rate had fallen to 7.8 percent in September from 8.1 percent the month before.

"Unbelievable jobs numbers..these Chicago guys will do anything..can't debate so change numbers," Welch tweeted, referring to the site of Obama campaign headquarters.

The drop in unemployment was announced two days after Obama's lackluster performance in his first debate with Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

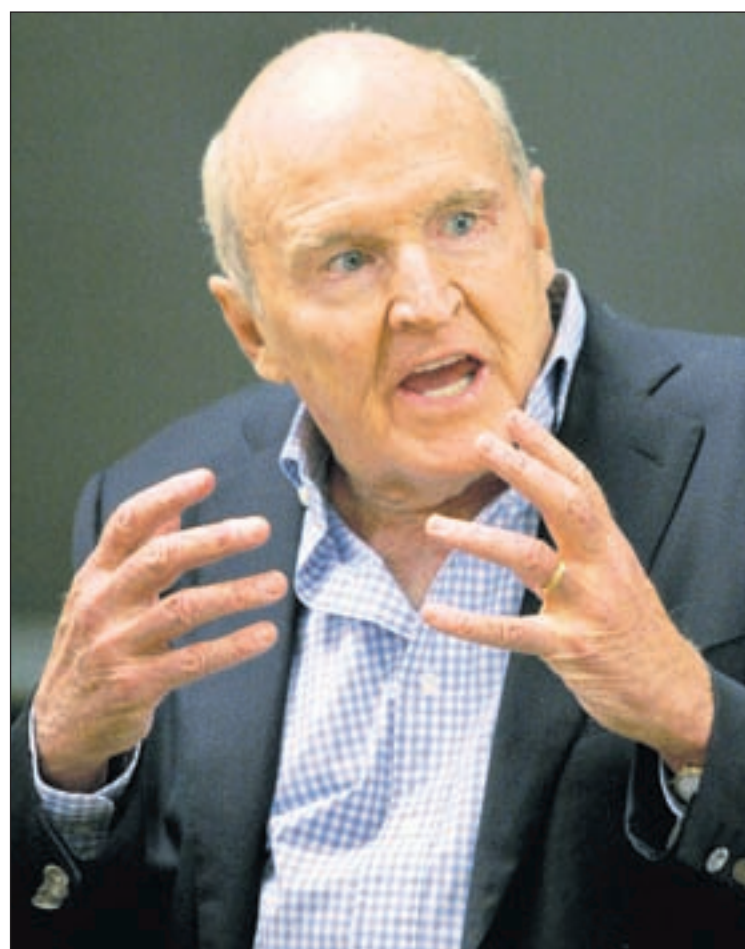
Republican Rep. Allen West of Florida soon announced via Facebook that he agreed with Welch.

"Somehow by manipulation of data we are all of a sudden below 8 percent

unemployment, a month from the presidential election," West wrote. "This is Orwellian to say the least." The Obama administration wasn't given much time to gloat about the strong economic improvement. Instead, it had to defend statisticians and economists against accusations made without any supporting evidence.

"No serious person ... would make claims like that," said Alan Krueger, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

The jobs report is prepared under tight security each month by a relatively obscure government agency — the Bureau of Labor Statistics — without any oversight or input from the White House. It is based on



Former General Electric CEO Jack Welch in Cambridge, Mass. Conspiracy theorists came out in force Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, after the government reported a sudden drop in the U.S. unemployment rate one month before Election Day. Welch tweeted his skepticism five minutes after the Labor Department announced that the unemployment rate had fallen to 7.8 percent in September from 8.1 percent the month before.

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data collected by an army of census workers, who interview Americans in 60,000 households by telephone or door-to-door.

Eight days before the unemployment rate is made public, the bureau's office suite goes into lockdown. Tom Nardone, a 36-year veteran at the agency who oversees preparation of the report, keeps crucial papers in a safe in his office. A big reason for the security has nothing to do with politics. The data could move financial markets if it were released early.

"These are our best-trained and best-skilled individuals," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said on CNBC. She called the claims of manipulation "ludicrous."

The BLS, the statistical division of the Labor Department, collected and analyzed data and calculated the unemployment rate before Wednesday night's presidential debate.

Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors, said that it's "not that un-

usual" for the rate to move by three-tenths of a percent in one month. It's happened 12 times in the past 10 years.

"In other words, at least once a year, you should expect that large a move," he said in an email to clients. It last happened 20 months ago, "so we were overdue. That is just the reality of the data."

Romney didn't discredit the government data. But plenty of conservatives did that work for him.

Conn Carroll, an editorial writer at the Washington Examiner, tweeted: "I don't think BLS cooked numbers. I think a bunch of Dems lied about getting jobs. That would have same effect."

Rick Manning, communications director of Americans for Limited Government and the former public affairs chief of staff at the Labor Department, said "anyone who takes this unemployment report serious is either naive or a paid Obama campaign adviser." □

US Briefs

Mold in Gitmo won't hold up terrorism case

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — It appears a mold and rat problem at Guantanamo won't delay planned legal proceedings in a terrorism case. A military judge has ordered the government to ensure offices used by defense lawyers on the U.S. base in Cuba are free of unhealthy mold and rat droppings. If not, the government must find suitable office space elsewhere. Lawyers for an alleged terrorist have said the office air quality is so bad it sickened members of the defense team. Navy health officials agree. The defense had sought a delay in pretrial hearings set to start Oct. 15 for five men accused of planning and aiding the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. The government was given until Oct. 10 to solve the problem. Army Col. James Pohl issued the ruling Friday. □

Japanese skiff from tsunami lands in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — U.S. Coast Guard officials in Hawaii say fishermen have found a 16-foot (4.9-meter) Japanese skiff swept out to sea by last year's tsunami and brought it to Honolulu. The Coast Guard said Friday the crew of the fishing boat Zephyr found the small boat intact and floating about 800 miles (1,290 kilometers) north of Honolulu. The Coast Guard says the Japanese consulate confirmed the skiff was from the tsunami after Japanese Foreign Ministry contacted the owner. The owner doesn't want it back. Hawaii officials checked the boat for invasive species and radiation as a precaution. The boat is the second confirmed piece of tsunami debris to arrive in Hawaii. Last month, a large blue plastic bin used to transport seafood was found floating in waters off eastern Oahu. □

FBI: Friendly fire likely in border shootings

PHOENIX (AP) — A preliminary investigation has found friendly fire likely was to blame in the shootings of two border agents along the Arizona-Mexico border, the FBI said Friday. The shootings Tuesday about five miles (eight kilometers) north of the border near Bisbee left one agent dead and another wounded. "While it is important to emphasize that the FBI's investigation is actively continuing, there are strong preliminary indications that the death of United States Border Patrol Agent Nicholas J. Ivie and the injury to a second agent was the result of an accidental shooting incident involving only the agents," FBI Special Agent in Charge James L. Turgal Jr. said in a statement. Turgal said the FBI is using "all necessary investigative, forensic and analytical resources in the course of this investigation." He did not elaborate.

Ivie was shot and killed after he and two other agents responded to an alarm triggered by a sensor aimed at detecting smugglers and others entering the U.S. illegally. The other agent was shot in the ankle and buttocks but was released from the hospital after surgery. The third agent was uninjured. David Klinger, a criminology professor at the University of

Missouri at St. Louis and an expert in police shootings, said investigators trying to determine whether friendly fire occurred in a shooting involving law enforcement would compare the bal-

And investigators would try to establish where officers and witnesses were positioned at the time of the shooting, Klinger said. After a meeting of border governors Friday in Albu-

harm's way. "It's the federal government's responsibility to secure our border, and they need to do that, and then we can deal with all the other issues that have come about because our border hasn't been secured," said Brewer, who plans to attend Ivie's memorial service Monday in Sierra Vista. The Border Patrol couldn't immediately comment on the frequency of friendly fire shootings at the agency, but such incidents appeared to be extremely rare. Neither George McCubbin, president of the National Border Patrol Council, nor Kent Lundgren, chairman of the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers, had ever heard of any friendly fire incidents in the Border Patrol.

"I know of absolutely none in the past, and my past goes back to 1968," Lundgren said, citing the year he joined the Border Patrol. "I'm not saying it never happened. I'm just saying I've never heard of it." McCubbin has served in the Border Patrol since 1985. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano came to Arizona on Friday to express her condolences to Ivie's family and meet with law enforcement authorities in southern Arizona about the investigation. □



Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, left, and Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner David Aguilar exit the home of Border Patrol Agent Nicholas Ivie in Sierra Vista, Ariz. on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Ivie was shot and killed earlier in the week. A preliminary investigation has found friendly fire likely was to blame in the shootings of two border agents along the Arizona-Mexico border, the FBI said Friday.
(AP Photo/The Arizona Republic, David Wallace)

listics of officers' guns with bullet slugs that were either recovered from or passed through an officer's body. The officers involved in the case and any known witnesses also would be asked to provide accounts of such a shooting during interviews with investigators.

querque, New Mexico, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer stood by the criticism she leveled earlier this week in response to the shooting in which she said a political stalemate and the federal government's failures have left the border unsecured and Border Patrol agents in

American says fixed seats on 42 planes

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines says it has repaired 42 of 48 planes that were pulled aside and inspected because the seats could come loose. The airline said Friday that all seat repairs on its Boeing 757 airplanes should be done by Saturday. American canceled 44 flights Friday after it scrapped 50 flights Thursday because of the seat problem. It said no flights had been canceled for Saturday. Based on the number of canceled flights, the size

of the planes, and American's typical occupancy or "load factor" for September, it's likely that about 14,000 passengers were inconvenienced. American declined to say how many passengers were affected. A spokeswoman said the airline would put them on later flights or give refunds. "We sincerely apologize to our customers for any inconvenience this may cause with their travel plans," said spokeswoman Andrea Huguely. American Airlines said

crews inspected the planes earlier in the week and thought they had fixed them. Then on Thursday American said it discovered the real reason the seats weren't staying in place — a pin that locks them into the aircraft floor could pop out because of wear and dirt in the floor tracks. The seats were removed and reinstalled during renovations intended to provide more legroom for some seats, which can then be sold for an extra charge.

American officials said this week that the removal and reinstallation process didn't cause the problem but might have made it appear sooner. They added that seats are also removed during heavy maintenance overhauls called D-checks, which are performed about every five years, and when carpeting is replaced or wiring installed. The seats are checked for looseness roughly every 6 months when undergoing a so-called B-check, they added. □

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UN Ambassador Rice denies misleading Congress

LARRY MARGASAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations has denied she tried to mislead Congress when she initially called the Sept. 11 attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya, a spontaneous protest.

Susan Rice, in a letter released Friday, wrote three Republican senators that her comments on television news shows after the attack were based on the best information available at the time from intelligence officials.

U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed. Rep. Darrell Issa, Republi-

can chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has said the State Department refused repeated requests for increased security at the consulate.

Rice wrote Sens. John McCain, Kelly Ayotte and Ron Johnson that she "consistently qualified, in some instances twice, the information I provided as preliminary."

U.S. officials modified their initial public assessment and said the attack was an act of terrorism, with some attackers linked to groups affiliated with, or sympathetic to, al-Qaida. Rice said on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sept. 16 that the attack was "initially a



US United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice speaking at the United Nations. Rice, in a letter released Friday, wrote three Republican senators that her comments on television news shows after the attacks in Benghazi, Libya were based on the best information available at the time from intelligence officials.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

spontaneous reaction" to a demonstration in Cairo. The Egypt demonstration was a protest against an anti-Muslim film made in the United States. However, Rice also said, "Obviously, that's our best judgment now. We'll await the results

of the investigation...."

The U.S. intelligence community and the FBI are currently investigating the attack. The senators said in a joint statement that they did not accept Rice's explanation.

"The Obama administra-

tion failed to sufficiently protect our consulate and diplomats in Benghazi in the face of obvious and growing threats in eastern Libya in the months leading up to the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack," they said. "To make matters worse, the administration mishandled its response to the attack and appears to have selected intelligence that mischaracterized the attack and misled the American people."

The senators contended that some intelligence officials, within hours of the attack, told administration officials that militants connected to al-Qaida were involved. "Either the Obama administration is misleading Congress and the American people, or it is blaming the entire failure on the intelligence community," the senators said. They added the administration's conduct after the attack "indicates a breathtaking level of incompetence." □

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Short supplies keep gas prices up in California

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California gas prices continued surging Friday, adding another 17 cents per gallon on average, and the increases are expected to continue for at least several more days, ensuring long lines and short tempers at pumps around the state.

A week of soaring costs has led some stations to close and others to charge record prices — in some places \$5 or more — as California leapfrogged Hawaii as the state with the most expensive fuel.

The average price for a gallon of regular unleaded across California was nearly \$4.49 on Friday, 32 cents more than a week ago and the highest statewide average in the nation, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge report.

The national average is about \$3.79 a gallon, the highest ever for this time of year. However, gas prices in many other states have started decreasing, which is typical for October.

Rebecca Olson, 43, of Irvine, drove to a Costco in Tustin hoping to find lower prices than the \$4.65 in her neighborhood, but the pumps were closed.

The part-time preschool teacher said her husband already spends \$500 a month on gas, in part because he commutes nearly 100 miles a day to a new sales job after being unemployed for a year.

"All of this is killing us, just because we've got big cars," she said. □

Homeless fight against panhandling bans

DAN FROSCH

© 2012 New York Times

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

— Panhandlers, with their crumpled signs, coffee cups and pleas, are as customary a sight in many U.S. towns and cities as Starbucks or McDonald's. But for one Utah homeless

Evans said he had received more than 50 panhandling citations, and cases like his have become increasingly common of late. With the downturn in the economy, cities across the country have been cracking down on an apparent rise in aggressive panhan-

Johnson, a civil rights lawyer for the group. "Rather than addressing the issue of homelessness, they are adapting measures that move homeless people out of downtowns, tourist areas or even out of a city." Case law on the issue has varied over the years, and

homeless man and a disabled veteran who were arrested on panhandling charges in Grand Rapids, Mich., a federal judge ruled in August that the state's blanket ban on public begging also violated the First Amendment.

Michigan's attorney general, Bill Schuette, has appealed, arguing that begging is not protected speech.

In many cases, the dispute over panhandling centers on whether a city's efforts to criminalize aggressive begging to protect pedestrians and businesses ends up overreaching.

After the Northern California city of Arcata passed an ordinance banning panhandling in 2010, a local resident, Richard Salzman, sued in state Superior Court in Humboldt County.

Salzman, 53, an agent for commercial illustrators, said he had no problem with Arcata's efforts to curb aggressive panhandling. But he objected to the city — long known for its liberal leanings — also prohibiting panhandling that was not necessarily threatening on its face, like merely asking for money within 20 feet of the entrance to a store or restaurant.

"I don't know how much more passive you can be than standing there silently holding a sign," he said. "This is a slippery slope we don't want to go down." Last month, Judge Dale A. Reinholdt ruled that Arcata's law was indeed too broad and struck down most provisions that prohibited all panhandling in specific locations. □



Steve Ray Evans, a panhandler, asks for money from passing motorists in Salt Lake City, Oct. 4, 2012. As cities crack down on an apparent rise in aggressive panhandling, advocates for the homeless say sweeping bans go too far, and several recent legal decisions have favored the homeless.

(Mike Terry/The New York Times)

man, the right to ask people for money has become a personal legal crusade. Steve Ray Evans, who uses a sign to ask drivers for money, has been successfully suing Utah cities that have cited him for panhandling, arguing that his right to free speech is being violated by a state statute that bans soliciting near roadways.

"This is my only source of income," said Evans, 54, whose sign reads "Starving Please Help." "I do it for survival purposes. I feel as though a lot of other individuals depend on it, too."

dling, while advocates for the homeless and civil liberties groups contend that sweeping bans on begging go too far.

According to a report by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty that examined 188 cities, there was a 7 percent increase in prohibitions on begging or panhandling between 2009 and 2011.

"Our sense is that cities are responding to the increasing number of chronically or visibly homeless people due to the economic crisis," said Heather Maria

local panhandling laws differ widely. But several recent legal decisions have favored the homeless.

In January, after Evans' initial lawsuit, Salt Lake City agreed to stop enforcing the state statute.

But Utah fought the suit, arguing that panhandling near roads was dangerous. A federal judge sided with Evans in March, ruling that the statute was unconstitutional. In June, the city of Draper agreed to stop enforcing the ordinance after Evans filed suit there as well. After a lawsuit filed by a



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Abu Hamza extradited to U.S. after UK ruling

Continued from Front Page

"It follows that their extradition to the United States of America may proceed immediately," the judge said. The five have sought to avoid extradition by raising concerns about human rights and the conditions they would face in a U.S. prison. Both British and European courts have ruled that they can be sent to the U.S. to face charges, but they sought last-minute injunctions from the High Court. The suspects face a variety of charges stretching back several years. The best known of the defendants is al-Masri, an Egyptian-born former nightclub bouncer who turned London's Finsbury Park Mosque into a training ground for radical Islamists during the 1990s. The mosque was once attended by Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and "shoe bomber" Richard Reid. Al-Masri is wanted in the U.S. on charges that include conspiring with Seattle men to set up a terrorist train-

ing camp in Oregon and helping abduct 16 hostages, two of them American tourists, in Yemen in 1998. Ahmad and Ahsan faces charges in Connecticut relating to websites that

Bary and al-Fawwaz were indicted with others, including Osama bin Laden, for their alleged roles in the bombings of two U.S. embassies in east Africa in 1998. Al-Fawwaz faces

hatred and encouraging followers to kill non-Muslims. Lawyers for the 54-year-old preacher, who has one eye and hooks in place of hands he claims to have lost fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, argued in court that his deteriorating physical and mental health meant it would be "oppressive" to send him to a U.S. prison. The judges said his conditions could be treated in the U.S., and concluded that "there is nothing to suggest that extradition in this case would be unjust or oppressive." Before Friday's ruling, a small group of Islamist protesters gathered outside the court to denounce the planned extraditions. A few scuffled briefly with police and one seized a placard reading "Sling His Hook" from a demonstrator expressing the opposite view. While al-Masri has been portrayed in the British media as one of the most dangerous men in the country, the case of Babar Ahmad has raised concerns among legal experts and

human rights advocates. Ahmad, a London computer expert, is accused in the U.S. of running terrorist-funding websites. He and Ahsan both face charges including using a website to provide support to terrorists and conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim or injure persons or damage property in a foreign country. Ahmad and Ahsan could be in court in Connecticut, where an Internet service provider was allegedly used to host one of the websites, on Saturday if they are extradited as planned from Britain. A hearing was scheduled for Ahmad and Ahsan in U.S. District Court in New Haven on Saturday morning, U.S. Marshal Joseph Faughnan said Friday. Some lawyers and lawmakers have expressed concerns about the case, because Britain agreed to extradite him even though his alleged crimes were committed in Britain and British courts declined to prosecute him for lack of evidence. □



Demonstrators clash with police officers outside The Royal Courts of Justice in London Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Radical preacher Abu Hamza al-Masri and four other terror suspects who fought for years to avoid facing charges in the United States lost their grounds for appeal and were flown to the U.S. from Britain late Friday, officials said.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

allegedly sought to raise cash, recruit fighters and seek equipment for terrorists in Afghanistan and Chechnya.

more than 269 counts of murder. Al-Masri has been in a British jail since 2004 on separate charges of inciting racial

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Germany's Merkel to visit Greece

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Greece next week for the first time since the debt crisis erupted to meet the country's prime minister — who warned Friday that Athens will run out of money at the end of November if it doesn't receive the next part of its bailout loans.

Because Germany has been instrumental in pushing Greece to make austerity cuts in exchange for its bailout loans, Merkel has routinely been the object of anger at public protests in Athens. Her photograph

has been manipulated by Greek newspapers to look like a Nazi officer and a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay. Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said Merkel's visit on Tuesday was good news. "We will receive her as befits the leader of a great power and a friendly country," he told reporters in Athens. But Greece's main labor unions were swift to call a protest rally outside Parliament on Tuesday against "the neoliberal policies of Mrs. Merkel and the European Union's core leadership," and a three-hour work stoppage in Athens to facilitate participation. The unions said

in a statement that "workers, pensioners and unemployed people can take no more of the European Union's punitive policies."

A populist conservative party that came fourth in Greece's June national elections said it would stage a protest outside the German Embassy in Athens on Tuesday evening.

Merkel's spokesman, Stefan Seibert, was at pains to portray the trip, her first since July 2007, as "a normal visit." It follows an invitation that Samaras made when he visited Berlin in August. Seibert underlined Germany's message that it wants Greece to stay in the euro



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, center, welcomes the President of the Yemen Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi, right, for talks at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany. Merkel will travel to Greece next week for the first time since the debt crisis erupted to meet the country's prime minister — who warned Friday that Athens will run out of money at the end of November if it doesn't receive the next part of its bailout loans.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Malta:

First Europe-Arab summit in a decade

STEPHEN CALLEJA
Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Terrorism, lawlessness, immigration and the European debt crisis were all discussed Friday at the first Mediterranean summit since the Arab Spring uprisings.

On the sideline of the summit, French President Francois Hollande said it was up to Spain, not the European Union, to determine whether Spain requires financial assistance from Europe to solve its serious financial difficulties. The summit on the island of Malta was originally scheduled for 2011 but was postponed because of the dramatic political changes in North Africa. The 5+5 summit, which brings together five European nations and five North African states — Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco — comes to an end Saturday. Malta's Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi opened the summit stressing the long-term interests of the democratization process in the Arab world.

Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Coelho met afterward to discuss the eurozone crisis. Asked whether the EU is prepared to help Spain, Hollande said it's



Participants to a Mediterranean summit of southern European and North African countries pose for a group photo, in Valletta, Malta, Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. The Malta summit of five European and five African nations is expected to focus on fighting terrorism and lawlessness in North African as well as France's push for a military intervention in Mali, where Islamist rebels have taken control in the north.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

up to Spain to decide first what it needs to do.

"(Spain must) submit a plan to help with conditions that must be cleared, or not do so if they do not need," he said, emphasizing the importance of stabilization and growth within the EU. Hollande was expected to seek support for his call to the U.N.

Security Council to endorse a West African-led military intervention in northern Mali, where al-Qaida-linked Islamists are in control. However, he did not raise the issue at a closing press conference. □

bloc — but that the Greeks also must push ahead with their painful reforms. Since Greece received its first bailout in May 2010, it has repeatedly slashed incomes, hiked taxes and raised retirement ages. "We want to help Greece to stabilize itself in the eurozone. We are doing that by contributing massively to the rescue programs that are supposed to help get Greece out of the crisis," Seibert said.

Merkel has been noncommittal on Greece's hopes of getting more time to enact reforms and repay its loans, but has rejected talk from some in her center-right coalition about a possible Greek exit from the 17-nation euro. □

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U.S. suspects Haqqani tie to Afghan insider attacks

ROBERT BURNS

**AP National Security Writer
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**

— The Haqqani insurgent network, based in Pakistan and with ties to al-Qaida, is suspected of being a driving force behind a significant number of the “insider” attacks by Afghan forces that have killed or wounded more than 130 U.S. and allied troops this year, American officials said Friday.

Until now, officials had said the attacks seemed to stem either from personal grievances against the allies or from Taliban infiltration. The Taliban has publicly claimed to be orchestrating the campaign to subvert the U.S.-Afghan alliance.

New data provided to The Associated Press this week also reveal that in addition to 35 U.S. and allied troops killed in insider attacks last year, 61 were wounded. Those included 19 in a single attack in the eastern province of Laghman on April 16, 2011, in which six American servicemen were killed. Thus far in 2012 there have been 53 killed and at least 80 wounded, the figures showed.

Haqqani involvement in the plotting would add a new dimension to that group's insurgent activity, which has been marked largely by spectacular attacks against targets inside Kabul.

Haqqani leaders have pledged allegiance to Taliban leader Mullah Omar, but the group largely operates independently. The two groups have a shared interest in evicting foreign

terrorist organization.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss inferences drawn from internal U.S. military analyses of a string of murderous attacks over the



Afghan soldiers and a policeman prepare for a mock ambush as part of a training exercise at the U.S. Marine-run Joint Sustainment Academy, Camp Leatherneck in Helmand, south of Kabul. The U.S. suspects the Haqqani insurgent network, which has ties to al-Qaida and is based in Pakistan, is a driving force behind many of the “insider” attacks by Afghan forces that have killed more than 50 U.S. and allied troops this year, officials say. Until now, officials have said the attacks seemed to stem either from personal grievances against the allies or from Taliban infiltration.

(AP Photo/Heidi Vogt)

forces.

The U.S. officials said that although there is no hard evidence tying the Haqqanis to specific attacks, the pattern of shootings and the movements and back-grounds of some of the shooters — including travel into Pakistan shortly before the shootings — point to a likely connection to the group Washington last month officially labeled a

past two years that have angered the allies, embarrassed the Afghan government and threatened to undermine the war effort. The officials were not authorized to make the comments publicly.

The U.S.-led military coalition recently slowed, temporarily, its partnering with some Afghan forces, partly in response to a recent spike in insider killings. □

Spanish man questioned on university attack plot

HAROLD HECKLE

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish man arrested on suspicion of planning to imitate the 1999 Columbine killings at a university campus on the popular holiday island of Mallorca was ordered Friday to remain in custody while a judge decides what legal action to take. The suspect, identified by officials only as a 21-year-old whose initials are J.M.M.S., was shown on state television TVE as he was escorted to court by police.

Judge Enrique Morell handed down a decision of provisional prison without bail

for the suspect, who was arrested Wednesday.

The judge said he had decided to keep the man in custody to avoid any risk he might tamper with evidence.

A court spokeswoman said the suspect entered the courthouse smiling before answering questions posed by Morell. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to speak to the media. Spanish police said the man had tried to purchase guns for the attack, but opted to make bombs from 140 kilograms (310 pounds) of chemicals bought online. □

Platinum producer fires striking SAfrican miners

RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Anglo American Platinum fired 12,000 striking miners Friday for staging an unlawful strike that is one of several that are slowly paralyzing South Africa's crucial mining sector. About 80,000 miners, representing 16 percent of the country's mine workforce, are currently striking in a wave of wildcat work stoppages that have serious economic and political implications for South Africa.

Strike leader Gaddafi Mdoda, a mineworker at Anglo American Platinum,

or Amplats, said he was one of the workers who received emails or SMS messages telling them they had been dismissed.

“Things are bad here,” Mdoda said. The strike leader said he was shocked by the decision to dismiss striking workers, even though “it is nothing to be afraid of.”

“Approximately 12,000 striking employees chose not to make representations, nor attend the hearings, and have therefore been dismissed in their absence,” a statement from Amplats said, according to the South African Press Agency. □

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Japan urges peace as neighbors clash over islands

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The island disputes roiling much of Asia must be settled peacefully according to international law, Japan said Friday at an Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum attended by Tokyo's newly angered rival China and other countries with their own sea clashes brewing. For its part, Beijing offered 3 billion yuan (\$474 million) for a maritime cooperation fund with ASEAN, which has several members at odds with China over islands in the South China Sea. What

the money what would be used for was not immediately clear, but the offer may have been an effort to reduce tensions. Senior diplomats and private maritime experts from the 10-nation association and eight other countries, including China, Japan, South Korea and the United States, were gathered in Manila for a maritime forum. In his keynote address, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Tsuruoka said claimants in Asia's territorial disputes must reject the

idea that "might is right." "It is indispensable for any party concerned to resolve disputes over territories in a peaceful manner based on international law," Tsuruoka said, adding that countries should clarify their claims based on rules provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Japan's long-simmering dispute with China over some tiny East China Sea islands heated up last month after Tokyo purchased the islands from their private Japanese owners. Japan currently controls

the islands, but Beijing insists that they belong to China and that the purchase violates earlier tacit agreements to set the dispute

aside. Taiwan also claims the islands. Japan has a separate territorial row with South Korea. □

Kyrgyz politician charged with seeking power grab

LEILA SARALAYEVA Associated Press BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Prosecutors charged a firebrand nationalist politician Friday with whipping up public disturbances in the capital in an attempt to violently seize power in the turbulent Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan. Several hundred supporters of Ata-Zhurt leader Kamchibek Tashiyev held a meeting Friday for a second day in the southern town of Jalal-Abad to demand his release. Two Tashiyev allies, Sadyr Zhaparov and Talant Mamyrov, face similar charges over their involvement in crowd trouble Wednesday in the capital, Bishkek, which culminated with a mob trying to seize a building housing parliament and government offices. The disturbances arose from a rally ostensibly organized to demand the nationalization of an eco-

nomically vital gold mine, although political analysts have suggested the meeting was a smokescreen for sowing political instability. Kyrgyzstan, a country of 5 million people on China's mountainous western border, also hosts a U.S. air

base used to support military operations in nearby Afghanistan. Tashiyev, Zhaparov and Mamyrov and politicians were transported from their detention facility for a court hearing late Friday evening under intense police guard.



Police officers secure government headquarters in downtown Bishkek, Kyrgyz capital. Police officers protecting the government building, known as the White House, used dogs and smoke bombs to disperse a group of young men who attempted to scale the gates. (AP Photo/ Vladimir Voronin)



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Revenge one possible motive in Mexico slaying



In this Oct. 15, 2007 photo, Jose Eduardo Moreira Rodriguez, second from left, poses for photographers with his father, Humberto Moreira, second from right, and other unidentified siblings in Saltillo, Mexico. Moreira Rodriguez, son of an embattled former Mexican governor and political party leader, was found shot to death Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012. A relative of Humberto Moreira, who was president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party and governor of Coahuila state, says the body of Humberto Moreira son was found Wednesday night in a rural area near Ciudad Acuna, across the border from Del Rio, Texas.

(AP Photo/Alberto Puentes)

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The fatal shooting of the nephew of the governor of the violence-torn border state of Coahuila came hours after the nephew of one of Mexico's most-feared drug bosses was killed by state police, authorities said Friday.

Coahuila state Attorney General Homero Ramos said revenge "could be a

hypothesis" for the slaying of 25-year-old Jose Eduardo Moreira, whose body was discovered Wednesday inside his pickup truck on a rural road on the outskirts of Ciudad Acuna, a town across the border from Del Rio, Texas.

Ramos told Radio Formula on Friday that hours before Moreira was slain, a confrontation in the border city of Piedras Negras between state officers and suspect-

ed cartel members left five suspects dead, including the nephew of Zetas cartel leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales. The victim's father, Humberto, was Coahuila's previous governor and also served as national head of the Institutional Revolu-

tionary Party, or PRI, in the run-up to July's presidential election. He was pushed out of the leadership last year amid accusations of mismanaging Coahuila's finances.

Ramos' office said in a statement that seven local

police officers are being questioned in connection with the slaying.

Coahuila, which is across the border from Texas, has been the scene of battles between the Zetas drug gang and the Sinaloa drug cartel. □

Rage erupts in Guatemala after 6 protesters are shot

MOISES CASTILLO
R. RUIZ-GOIRIENA
Associated Press
TOTONICAPAN, Guatemala (AP) — Thousands of grieving indigenous Guatemalans shouted in anger Friday, some of them hurling themselves at the coffins of six local people slain when gunfire erupted during a protest over electrical power prices and educational reform in a poor rural area west of the capital.

The Guatemala government said protesters were blockading a highway near the town of Totonicapan, about 90 miles west of Guatemala City, when un-



Relatives weep over the coffin containing the remains of Francisco Ordonez during a mass funeral service in Totonicapan, Guatemala, Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Ordonez is one of at least six people slain when gunfire erupted Thursday during a protest over electrical power prices and educational reform in a poor rural area west of the capital.

(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

identified people opened fire from the back of a truck with civilian license

plates, killing six people and wounding 34. Local activists accused soldiers and police of opening fire on the protesters.

The six victims were buried Friday afternoon in Totonicapan, where thousands gathered to watch their coffins pass through the town's central square. Hundreds shouted "Justice! Justice!" while dozens of mourners from the Cakchiquel hurled themselves toward the coffins in grief. Thursday's protest was fueled by anger at President Otto Perez Molina, who has proposed constitutional reforms that he says will modernize Guatemala's economic and regulatory systems. Among other changes, the reforms would set price caps on electricity, and require teachers to get a five-year bachelor's degree instead a three-year vocational degree. The protesters think the price caps are too high, and object to the longer process for obtaining a degree that many in the subsistence-farming area depend on to improve their livelihoods. □

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Under Full Sail:

Jolly Pirates on the Sea of Matrimony

MALMOK- While the 85ft teak schooner sailing ship was moored at Boca Catalina, Christian Bosnie and Willemijn Van Hagen celebrated good times aboard the Jolly Pirates with their wedding guests from Holland, local Water Sports friends and fellow band members from Mystical Connection.

With magic and wonder in the trade winds Chris and Willemijn said their "I Do's" and like all starry-eyed couples they pledged their love to each other. In keeping with the Jolly Pirates tradition, the couple exchanged the ship's bright orange life rings and sealed the deal with a kiss. As the sun set into the horizon in a colorful



kaleidoscope of color and with a full ship of friends and family to witness, cups of the ship's signature brew, Pirate's Poison were raised to toast the couples special day. Aye! Aye!

With advance notice the Jolly Pirates can also help you to make your special day more special with arrangements for Private Ceremonies for your day to include Wedding Cake, Canapés, Champagne, Flowers, Live Music, Upscale Menus and Photographer. Weddings and Wedding Reception can also be arranged aboard their impressive teak schooners. If Pirate Wedding Booty is what you've been yearning for, please visit the Jolly Pirates Website; www.jolly-pirates.com for additional information. You can give the Jolly Pirates a shout at their souvenir shop on the MooMba Beach or call 586-8107, and after hours 59-7858. □



The NEW General Café opens after complete remodeling

Oranjestad – The General Café at the General Store in Camacuri, hosted a small opening party this weekend, in which Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman, enjoyed the honor of cutting the ribbon of the Fresh, Fast & Friendly Café in the presence of the Calloway Corporation family members and the Ponson family member.

Deborah St. Laurent, Managing Director, Calloway Corporation, and Café General Manager Carlos H. Soto Cano, welcomed their guests warmly.

Calloway Corporation, in charge of Airline Catering Services at Queen Beatrix International Airport, diversified a few years ago to also include a small cantina at the General Store, practically across the street from the catering plant.

Due to popularity, the decision to expand the cantina was taken a few months ago, and Deborah and her crew worked tirelessly to realize their plan for an expanded restaurant, offering buffet lunch and on-the-go items, at superb quality and reasonable prices.



Premier Eman escorted by his wife Doina, praised the stylish and contemporary

interior design, and greeted the Ponson family and the Calloway Corporation



family amiably, revealing that he has been a guest of the General Café on a number of occasions before, and always liked the food and the service.

Immediately following the informal ribbon cutting, invitees were treated to delectable iced Jumbo shrimp, sushi rolls, and roast beef sliders as hors d'oeuvres, over cocktails.

The General Café boasts modern food displays, a spacious check out area, a comfortable dining room with views on the airport runway, convenient rest rooms, as well as ample parking.

As part of the opening festivities, the café just announced a fun contest. Patrons coming for lunch will be asked to photograph their entrees and send them to the restaurant manager by e-mail. Those who enter a photograph will be eligible to participate in a raffle for a full month-worth of free lunches, with a cash value of over Awg 400.

The success of the General Café is due largely to its ex-

citing selection of different dishes every day, serving a hearty home-made soup, and four international or local entrees.

In addition to posting a different menu every day of the week, six days a week, Sunday features a famous BBQ with chicken, steak and ribs or a special main course.

Those in a rush can grab a wrap filled with Asian Chicken, Turkey & Cheese, Roast beef, or Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato.

The plentiful salads are always tempting and crunchy, Chicken & Bacon, Chicken Caesar and Chef Salad.

The General Café at camacuri is affiliated with the Savaneta General Café, behind the General Store.

Open for take-out, or leisurely lunch enjoyed in the new dining room, Monday - Saturday 8:00am - 4:00pm, Sundays 9:00am - 1:00pm, Phone: +297 734-1000. A lunch delivery service is in the works and will be offered in the very near future. □

Beauty on the Beach

Cindy Mindy Sandra

Cindy Woodward and Mindy Fee, both from Knoxville, Tennessee pose with Sandra Budach, from Kaiserslautern, Germany. Their favorite activity on Aruba is Madi's Jeep ride! All three are enjoying the Holiday Inn Resort.

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21 Years of Café the Plaza celebrated with Sven Hammond Soul!



The 21-year anniversary of Café the Plaza was celebrated with rousing jazz, funk and soul music courtesy of the Sven Hammond Soul band, an 8-men formation from Holland.

Regular guests, tourists and local music lovers assembled in front of Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace last Thursday evening to come together in one big, happy group of

enthusiastic people, swept along on the superb rhythms from this excellent band. Everyone present will surely go to the 6th edition of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, where Sven Hammond, his great percus-



sionist, his outstanding vocalists and fantastic other band members will perform. The earth-shattering experience is a truly irresistible experience. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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This weekend:

Celebrate World Animal Day during the Yeegah! Party at Philip's Animal Garden!



ALTO VISTA 116 – World Animal Day is recognized every year on the 4th of October, when people everywhere celebrate and honor the many furry, feathered, scaly and hairy animals that we share this world with. Becoming a yearly tradition, Philip's Animal Garden, located at Alto Vista 116, will once



again be offering a great way to celebrate this special day. This weekend, on Saturday, October 6th, and Sunday, October 7th, the animal sanctuary and rehabilitation center will host its popular Yeegah! Party.

During these two days, visitors will have the chance to get up close and personal with over 60 different species of animals that call Philip's Animal Garden their home. They'll even have the chance to feed some of the animals. There will also be a number of special activities for kids, free of charge, such as pony rides, face painting, a bouncy castle and popular games. Everyone is invited to come and meet

the new animals, including camels and alpacas, as well as a whole bunch of newborn animals. You'll also be able to check out the first complete ocelot habitat in the Caribbean!

The entrance fee for the "Yeegah" party will be only 3 Florins per person, and all money raised during the event will go to the care of the animals and the maintenance of the sanctuary, which is now bigger than it has ever been.

Naturally, the bar and kitchen will be well stocked, also serving a full BBQ.

See you the weekend of October 6th and 7th at Philip's Animal Garden! □

American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

Of course, hamburgers and cheeseburgers – small and regular sized are also on the menu. But the big surprise is the hand-cut daily – french fries – from select Idaho potatoes and hand-made onion rings! Cooking these in peanut oil leaves the pure potato flavor in the fry. A favorite way to enjoy fries is with vinegar! These complement any meal ordered at 5 Burgers! Burgers are pressed daily and are U.S.D.A.

choice beef only and lightly seasoned with a special spice blend. They can even satisfy you if you desire a veggie burger. Toppings are encouraged and available at no additional charge – raw or grilled onions & mushrooms, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and many more tasty items. Brand new items to the menu include a hand-made beef empanada and chicken bites. 5 Burgers Aruba is open from Noon to 10-ish daily. Delivery is available to your pool or hotel room! They are located behind Senor Frogs and across from the Radisson Hotel. Come by and enjoy a great burger experience. Rosie & Aaron are often on site – making sure that you are happy with your burger experience! Call 5 BURGERS ARUBA at 586-3904. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Championship Chase



In this Feb. 23, 2012, file photo, Brad Keselowski walks along pit road before the first of two NASCAR Gatorade Duel 150 qualifying auto races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Drivers differ on how to race at Talladega

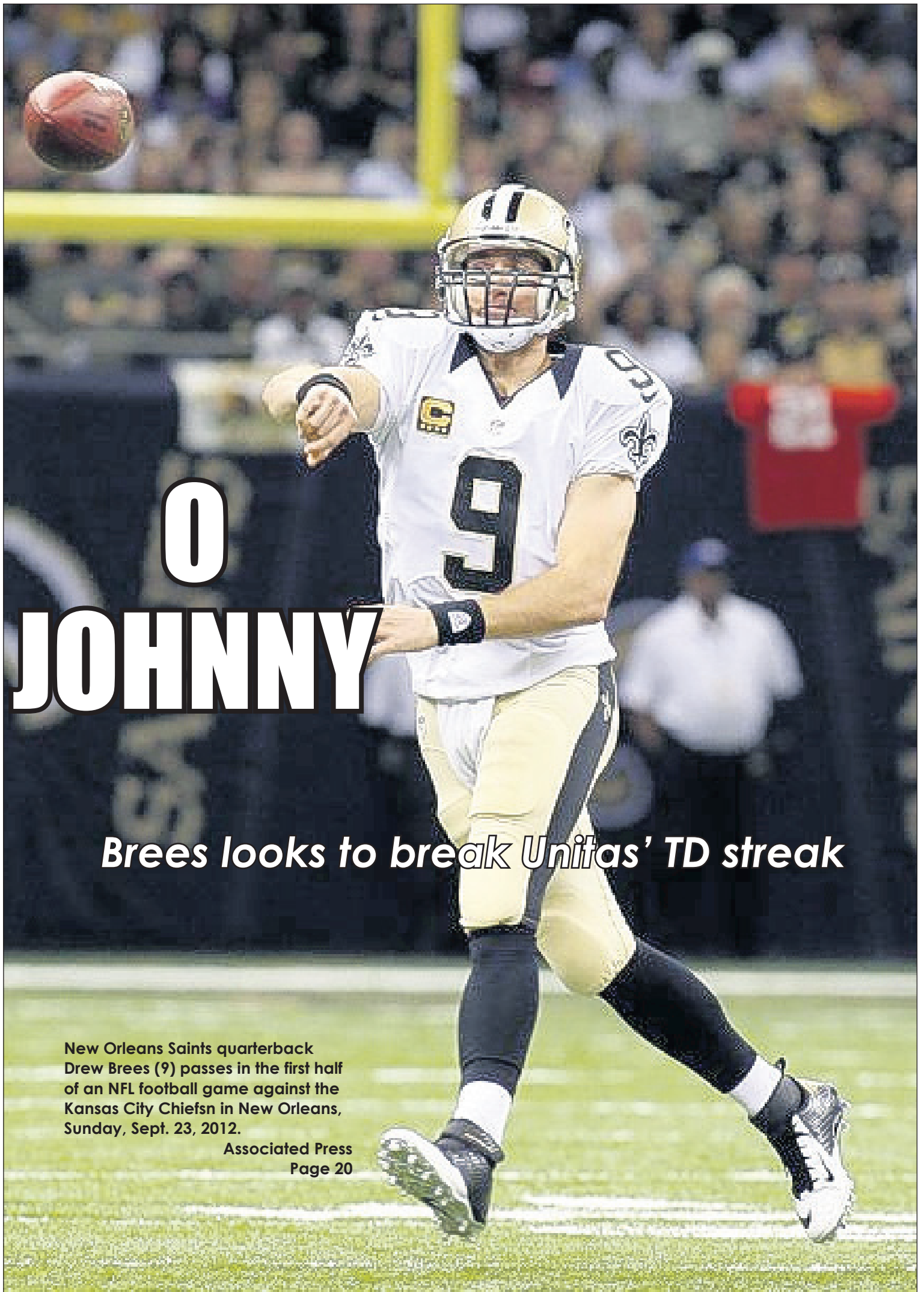
JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — There's debate as to where a driver wants to be in the race to the NASCAR title.

Brad Keselowski likes the view out front.

Keselowski takes a five-point lead over Jimmie Johnson into Sunday's race at Talladega Superspeedway, the fourth of 10 races in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Keselowski doesn't care if the rest of the field is gunning for him because he wants to be the hunted. "I don't know why you wouldn't want to be leading. I don't understand that theory at all," Keselowski said. "If you have a chance to be in the lead, take it and run."

That makes for an interesting discussion for Talladega, where drivers have varying strategies.

Continued on Page 18



JOHNNY

Brees looks to break Unitas' TD streak

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes in the first half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012.

Associated Press
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Championship Chase

Continued from Page 17

Some sit back and wait until late in the race to make a push toward the front, while others aren't shy about mixing it up.

It's something Keselowski had thought long and hard about before the May race at Talladega, where he defied conventional wisdom to beat Kyle Busch. In doing so, he became the first driver in five races at Talladega to be leading on the last lap and hold on for the win.

No driver has wanted to be out front in the closing laps because it sets them up to have the win snatched away by the second-place driver. Because drafting is so important at restrictor-plate races, drivers have mastered the strategy of



Driver Jimmie Johnson sits in his car as he waits for practice to begin at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. The drivers are preparing for Sunday's running of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race.

Associated Press

pushing a car around the track before pulling off the bumper at the last second and using a sling-shot pass to gain position.

Keselowski said after the win he had dreamed about the scenario, and he executed it with perfection

to create a strategy he's not sure would work again on Sunday.

"That was probably a one-time thing," Keselowski said, "there's a way of beating that."

Figuring out where to be and when to make a move

is half the battle this weekend, particularly for the Chase drivers.

Two-time defending race winner Clint Bowyer said his strategy will depend on how he qualifies, and at fourth in the standings, he's going hard after Keselowski, Johnson and Denny Hamlin.

But Kasey Kahne, who is sixth in points, said he hasn't yet figured out what he'll do beyond chasing points.

"What I've done the past two, three years is just tried to race and stay out front, as close to the front as possible," Kahne said. "It's hard to sit in the back and just kind of sit back there, relax and wait until 10 laps to go."

Johnson has yet to finish a plate race this season. The five-time champion was collected in an accident on the second lap of the Daytona 500, suffered an engine failure at Talladega

in the spring and was in yet another accident at Daytona in July. So he has no idea what's going to be the best strategy on Sunday, or where he wants to be in the field for the bulk of the race.

"It definitely is the one track in the Chase I've kind of been a little concerned about," he said. "There are so many things that are out of your control. I think the odds are in our favor to be able to finish one of these restrictor-plate races this year. At least I hope so."

Johnson was only half-kidding when he said he wanted NASCAR to drop Talladega from the Chase, but Daytona 500 winner Matt Kenseth said he's looking forward to the race for the first time in his career.

Kenseth has been strong in plate races this year, won the 500 and had a shot at winning both Talladega in May and Daytona in July. □

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Rams get 9 sacks, bust Cardinals' unbeaten run

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis quarterback Sam Bradford had an inconsistent night but made the key passes when it mattered as the Rams beat the previously undefeated Arizona Cardinals 17-3 in the NFL on Thursday.

Bradford connected on a 52-yard touchdown pass to rookie Chris Givens for a two-TD cushion and capped a win that owed more to the Rams fast-improving defense, which sacked Cardinals quarterback Kevin Kolb nine times. Arizona had scored at least 20 points in each of its first four games, but could not contain the St. Louis pass rush, and got stopped twice inside the 20-yard line in the final minutes.



Continued on Page 20

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 CASINO AND SHOPS

Suspended Saints bosses get to watch Brees history

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Somewhere in a private box at the Louisiana Superdome, Sean Payton, Mickey Loomis and Joe Vitt will sit and watch Drew Brees try to set an NFL record for consecutive games with a touchdown pass.

Not to mention get the New Orleans Saints out of their worst slide in years. That suspended trio — coach Payton is sidelined for the season, general manager Loomis for eight games, interim coach Vitt for six for their roles in the bounties scandal — was given permission by the NFL to attend Sunday's game against the San Diego Chargers, but can't interact with Brees or the other players.

Brees tied Hall of Famer John Unitas' mark of 47 straight, set from 1956-60 by throwing for three scores in a loss at Green Bay last weekend. Then he asked commissioner Roger Goodell about allowing the coaches and GM to attend on Sunday.

"It would mean a lot, and that's why I asked," Brees said. "I felt like they certainly deserved the opportunity to be there in attendance and share that moment with us."

While the Saints are one of two winless teams, along with Cleveland, the Chargers are on top of the AFC West. Their three wins are over Oakland, Kansas City and Tennessee, all of them with one win. When they played a contender — at home — the Chargers were routed by Atlanta.

So this could be something of a proving ground for San Diego, because beating

even a winless Saints squad in New Orleans never is a Big Easy. And with emotions running wild over Brees' pursuit of Unitas' record — and with Payton, Loomis and Vitt on hand — the Chargers' challenge is amplified.

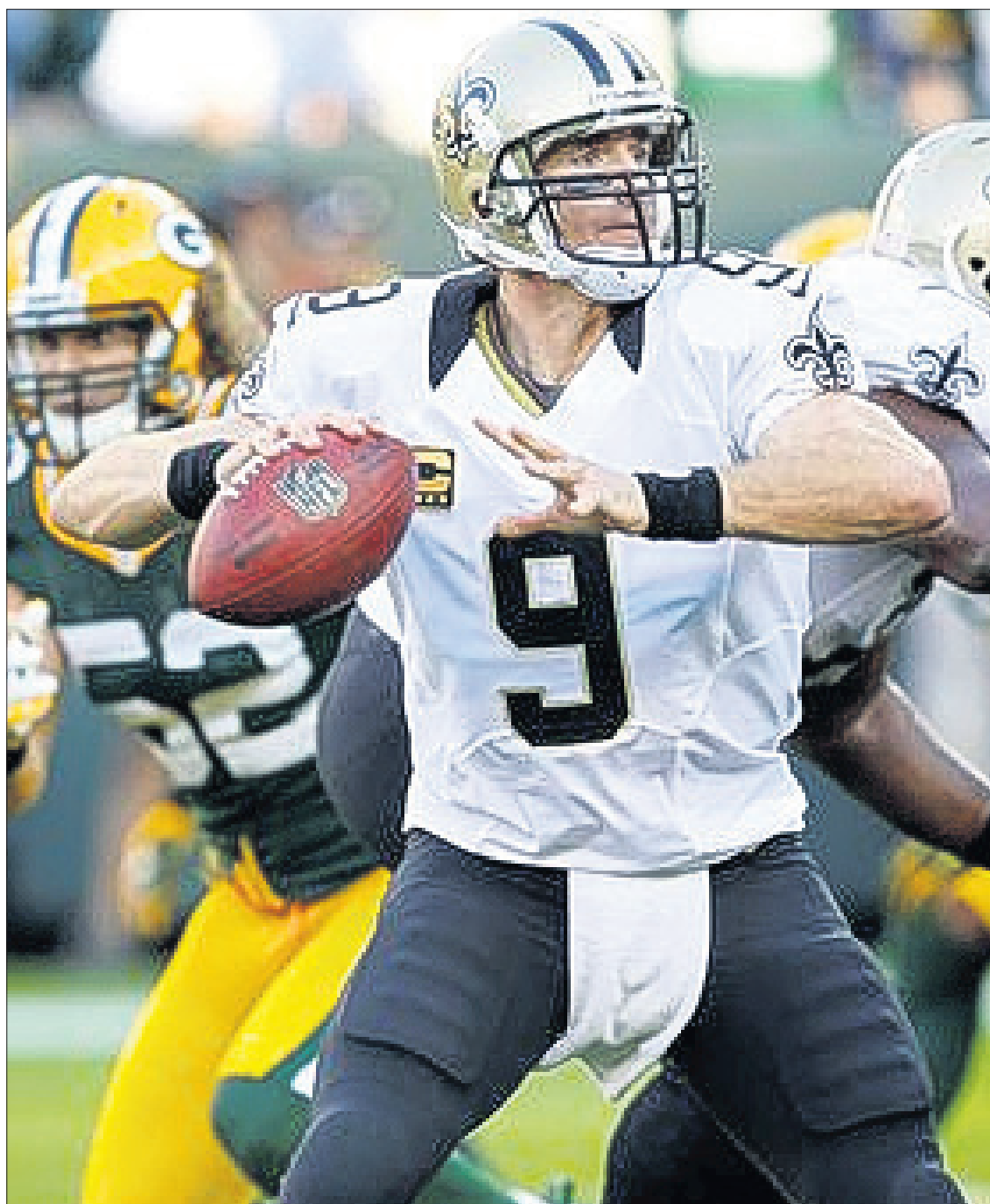
"It's the same team that's made deep playoff runs and it's the same team that's won Super Bowls," said Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, who replaced Brees as the starter in 2006, when Brees headed to New Orleans as a free agent. "We know what we're in for Sunday night. I know just from the few guys that were on this team a few years ago and are now there, it's a tough and resilient group. We're going to have to play at our best if we expect to win."

The Atlanta Falcons got some helpful preparation for facing Washington's sensational rookie quarterback Robert Griffin III when they played 2011's top offensive rookie, Cam Newton, last Sunday.

The Falcons nearly lost their unbeaten record, rescued only in the final minute when Matt Ryan led a 77-yard drive from his own 1-yard line to set up a game-winning field goal in a two-point win. They allowed Newton to throw for 215 yards and run for 86.

Griffin combined the best of both for the Redskins last week, putting up Newton-like numbers while leading a Ryan-like comeback. He threw for 323, ran for 36 and led a 56-yard drive from his own 20 and — that's right — set up a game-winning field goal in a two-point win.

That makes Sunday's matchup all the more in-



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees looks for a receiver during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers won 28-27.

Associated Press

triguing. Ryan is the NFL's top-rated passer and an early favorite for league MVP. Griffin is the top-rated first-year quarterback and a top contender for rookie of the year. Both have completed 69.4 percent of their passes, and they've combined to throw only three interceptions.

One catch: Griffin has yet to face a defense this good, while Ryan has yet to face one this bad. Elsewhere, it's Denver at New England, Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, Green Bay at Indianapolis, Baltimore at Kansas City, Cleveland at the New York Giants, Buffalo at San Francisco, Miami

at Cincinnati, Seattle at Carolina, Chicago at Jacksonville, and Tennessee at Minnesota. Houston is at the New York Jets on Monday. The week's action began on Thursday with St. Louis' 17-3 home victory over previously unbeaten Arizona. □

Rams

Continued from Page 19

The Rams totaled two victories last year but so far have executed a quick turnaround under new coach Jeff Fisher. They're 3-0 at home for the first time since 2003, when they were unbeaten in the Edward Jones Dome and they're

above .500 for the first time since they were 4-3 in 2006. The Rams, ranked a lowly 27th in offense, came out throwing, with Bradford completing passes of 14 yards to Brandon Gibson and 44 yards to Danny Amendola on the first two plays, setting up the score to Lance Kendricks on third down. It was the first offensive touchdown in three-

games for St. Louis. Arizona responded with a drive that lasted 9:24, ending with Jay Feely's 35-yard field goal. The Cardinals kept the drive alive with three third-down conversions. Larry Fitzgerald's 5-yard catch on the first play of the drive marked the 122nd straight game with a catch, a franchise record. □

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Djokovic, Tsonga, Azarenka, Sharapova win in China

BEIJING (AP) — Top-seeded Novak Djokovic needed only 53 minutes to win his quarterfinal over Jurgen Melzer of Austria 6-1, 6-2 at the China Open on Friday. Djokovic posting a dozen aces, and saved both break points he faced.

"The serve was great tonight," he said. "It's one of the best serving matches I have had in my career, so that's a positive sign."

Djokovic was particularly pleased with serving four straight aces to win the sixth game of the second set at love.

The Serbian doesn't remember ever serving a game that well: "That's why

I was very happy."

Fans went wild for Djokovic when, after the match, he signed his name on the TV camera lens in Mandarin.

Djokovic will take on Florian Mayer of Germany in Saturday's semifinals. Mayer gave himself a big 29th birthday present on Friday with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Chinese wild card Zhang Ze.

In other men's quarterfinal action, third-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated Mikhail Youzhny of Russia 6-3, 6-2, and Feliciano Lopez of Spain outlasted Sam Querrey of the U.S. 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Top women's seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus

and second-seeded Maria Sharapova continued their march through the draw.

Both women, who have yet to drop a set, came through the quarterfinals unscathed, but only one played their match to conclusion.

Azarenka, the Australian Open champion, won 6-2, 6-0 over unseeded Romina Oprandi of Switzerland.

Sharapova was in charge of fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber 6-0, 3-0 when the German retired with a right foot injury.

Azarenka, the winner of four titles in seven finals this season, will meet seventh-seeded Li Na., who moved



Serbia's Novak Djokovic prepares to hit a ball away after he scored a set point against Jurgen Melzer of Austria during their men's singles quarterfinal match of the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Djokovic defeated Melzer 6-1, 6-2.

Associated Press

Murray to meet Raonic in Japan Open semifinal

I TOKYO (AP) — Defending champion and top-seeded Andy Murray moved into the semifinals of the Japan Open with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over seventh-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland on Friday.

Playing in his first tournament since winning the U.S. Open last month, Murray scored a comprehensive victory over the Swiss with a powerful forehand and some fine volleys.

Murray will play sixth-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada in the semifinals on Saturday. Raonic outlasted third-seeded Janko Tipsarevic 6-7 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (7) in a match that took nearly 2 hours, 45 minutes.

Second-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic will take on local favorite Kei Nishikori, the eighth seed, later Friday in another quarterfinal, while Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus will meet qualifier



Andy Murray of Britain returns the ball against Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during their quarter-final match of Japan Open tennis championships in Tokyo, Friday, Oct. 5, 2012.

Associated Press

Dmitry Tursunov of Russia in the other. Murray broke Wawrinka in the opening game of the match, but had to battle to hold serve in the next game, staving off three break points before finally going up 2-0.

Murray, who beat Wawrinka in the first round on the way to winning the gold medal at the London Games, came to the net successfully several times in the first set and broke again with an overhead smash after a lengthy rally to take a 4-1 lead. He closed out the set 6-2 with an ace. □

closer to becoming the first Chinese finalist when she drubbed third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-4, 6-2.

Sharapova will also seek her eighth final appearance this year — she's won three titles, including her first French Open trophy — when she plays Marion Bartoli of France. Bartoli beat Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 6-0, 2-6, 6-4.

Azarenka dominated Oprandi, winning 60 of 87 points played, and capitalizing on all six break point opportunities.

"Sometimes it's important to stay tough and have

that concentration to make sure that you can win every ball and every point," Azarenka said.

Sharapova, the French Open champion, said she was unaware of Kerber being injured before she surrendered the match.

The Russian offered Kerber five chances to break serve, but held.

"I thought we played a high level of tennis the first set and a half, there were many games that went to deuce," Sharapova said. "I was surprised she called the trainer and even more so when she retired quickly after that." □

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Study: Free birth control leads to fewer abortions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Free birth control led to dramatically lower rates of abortions and teen births, a large U.S. study concludes. The findings come as a bitterly contested Obama administration policy is poised to offer similar coverage.

The project tracked more than 9,000 women in St. Louis, many of them poor or uninsured. They were given their choice of a range of contraceptive methods at no cost — from birth control pills to mistake-proof options like the IUD or a matchstick-sized implant. When price wasn't an issue, women flocked to the most effective contraceptives — the implanted options, which typically cost hundreds of dollars to insert. These women experienced far fewer unintended pregnancies as a result, reported Dr. Jeffrey Peipert of Washington University in St. Louis in a study published late this week.

The effect on teen pregnancy was striking: There were 6.3 births per 1,000 teenagers in the study. Compare that to a national rate of 34 births per 1,000 teens in 2010.

There also were substantially lower rates of abortion: 4.4 to 7.5 abortions per 1,000 women in the study, compared with 13.4 to 17 abortions per 1,000 women overall in the St. Louis region, Peipert calculated. That's lower than the national rate, too, which is al-

most 20 abortions per 1,000 women. In fact, if the program were expanded, one abortion could be prevented for every 79 to 137 women given a free contraceptive choice, Peipert's team reported in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.



A model holds the Nexplanon hormonal implant for birth control. Providing women with free birth control prevents abortions and teen births, concludes a massive study, with the strongest evidence to date that a bitterly contested Obama administration policy will benefit women's health.
(AP Photo/Merck)

Nearly half of the nation's 6 million-plus pregnancies each year are unintended. An estimated 43 percent of them end in abortion. Low-income women are far more likely to have an unplanned pregnancy than their wealthier counterparts.

"We shouldn't have, in my

view, a tiered system where the women with money can get family planning and the women without cannot," said Peipert, noting that 39 percent of the women in his study had trouble paying basic expenses. The findings of the study, which ran from 2008 to

want to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortion rates.

This study has demonstrated that having access to no-cost contraception helps us get to that goal," said Alina Salganicoff, director of women's health policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"It's just an amazing improvement," Dr. James T. Breeden, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said of the results. "I would think if you were against abortions, you would be 100 percent for contraception access."

The new policy is among the health care law's most contentious provisions because it exempts churches that oppose contraception but requires religious-affiliated organizations, such as colleges or hospitals, to provide the coverage for their workers. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and many conservative groups say that violates religious freedom, and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has expressed similar criticism.

"Additionally, one might conclude that the Obama administration's contraception mandate may ultimately cause more unplanned pregnancies since it mandates that all health plans cover contraceptives, including those that the study's authors claim are less effective," Monahan said. □

Japanese firm buys LigoCyte pharmaceutical

BOZEMAN, Montana (AP) — A Japanese pharmaceutical company is acquiring LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals in a \$60 million deal to expand its vaccine division, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. announced.

LigoCyte's work on a vaccine to prevent norovirus was identified as having potential for global impact, said Rajeev Venkayya, executive vice president of Takeda Pharmaceutical's vaccine business division.

"Norovirus is the most common cause of outbreaks of gastroenteritis and food-borne illness in the U.S., and is responsible for 200,000 deaths each year, most of them in developing countries," Venkayya said. "With the only norovirus vaccine in clinical trials today, Takeda will be in a position to change this picture."

Approval for the vaccine will be sought in the U.S., Europe and other countries based on where the illness is most prevalent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said norovirus infects 21 million people in the U.S. each year.

Takeda, based in Osaka, Japan, had sales of about \$19.2 billion in the last fiscal year. It invests about \$3.8 billion in research and development each year, officials said. Its wholly-owned subsidiary, Takeda America Holdings Inc., is purchasing Bozeman, Montana-based LigoCyte, a privately held company, in a deal that is expected to close in the next several weeks.

The acquisition is "a demonstration of Takeda's dedication to preventing illness in children and adults around the world," Venkayya said in a statement.

"Together, we believe we have the right combination of expertise and dedication to bring our norovirus vaccine to market. We look forward to supporting Takeda's vaccine research and development efforts and contributing to the long-term success of Takeda's Vaccine Business Division," Beeman said in a statement. □

5 dead:

US clinics rush to warn of tainted steroid

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Health providers scrambled to notify patients in nearly two dozen U.S. states that the steroid injections they received for back pain may have been contaminated with a deadly fungal meningitis. Five people have died.

It became apparent Thursday that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people who got the routine shots between July and September could be at risk after officials revealed that a tainted steroid suspected to have caused a meningitis outbreak in the South had made its way to 75 clinics

in 23 states.

The Food and Drug Administration urged physicians not to use any products from the Massachusetts pharmacy that supplied the steroid.

So far, 35 people in six states — Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, North Carolina and Indiana — have contracted fungal meningitis, and five of them have died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It is not clear how many patients received tainted injections, or whether everyone who got one will get sick. The time from infection to onset of symptoms is anywhere from a few

days to a month, so the number of people stricken could rise.

The pharmacy involved, the New England Compounding Center of Massachusetts, has recalled three lots consisting of a total of 17,676 single-dose vials of the steroid, preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate, Massachusetts health officials said.

Investigators this week found contamination in a sealed vial of the steroid at the company, FDA officials said. Tests are under way to determine if it is the same fungus blamed in the outbreak. Several hundred of the vials, maybe more, have been returned unused, but many others were used. □

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Review: Apple's maps app lets you follow the voice

By ANICK JESDANUN

Associated Press

FREMONT, Ind. (AP) — Apple's new maps app came out the day I started a 2,243-mile road trip through four states. As complaints about it trickled in and Apple's CEO apologized, I was left wondering whether people were using the same app I was.

Although it's not flawless or as good as Google's maps app on Android phones, Apple's new offering on the iPhone got me where I needed to go — for the most part. I know many people will disagree with me, but I even find it an improvement over the old app on iPhones because I now get voice navigation and automatic re-routing. I've used Google's Android app since it was released three years ago. I don't own a car, but I travel a lot. The app has proven crucial in getting me to unfamiliar territories in New England and various Southern states from Arizona to South Carolina.

Google brought to the phone the spoken-aloud, turn-by-turn directions once limited to GPS navigational devices from Garmin, TomTom and others. Make a wrong turn, and the app automatically updates with new directions. Best of all, it's always been free.

Until last month, Google was also behind the free, main maps app on iPhones. But that one didn't have

voice navigation or automatic re-routing. Driving with it meant swiping through pages of on-screen directions. A friend missed a train in May as we overlooked a step and went the wrong way on a highway, ending up back where we came from. A drive from Ann Arbor to Lansing, Mich., took 17 steps, each with its own page. After Step 9, I had to pull into a rest stop to memorize subsequent steps and avoid an accident.

Apple wanted voice directions, too, and figured the only way to get it was to build its own maps app and bump Google from its perch as the default offering. It partnered with TomTom and shipped the iPhone 5 with the new app. A software update out Sept. 19 made it available on the iPhone 4S and the cellular versions of the latest two iPad models.

I updated an iPhone 4S in a hotel room in Grand Rapids, Mich., that night and was immediately impressed. It was a nice touch to have turn-by-turn directions narrated by Siri, the familiar female voice from Apple's virtual-assistant feature.

Then I started hearing the complaints.

I agree with many of them. The Apple app didn't show as many businesses and landmarks as Google's. Some appeared in the wrong location or were mislabeled. The Apple app didn't offer public transit di-

rections, something crucial for New Yorkers like me. A friend I was visiting toward the end of the two-week trip immediately complained that the app looked different as she pulled it out for the first time.

Head to head, the Google app for Android, which I used on a Samsung Galaxy Nexus and a Galaxy S III, outperformed Apple's version in many respects:

— Google's app typically told me about turns a second or two quicker. Sometimes, I didn't hear from Siri until I got to the intersection, two lanes away from where I needed to be to make a right turn.

— I got better navigation on private roads with Google. At a shopping mall, Google guided me along the right driveways to get to JC Penney, while Apple got me to the general vicinity. Google also got me to the front door of my hotel in Ann Arbor, while Apple got me to the entrance of a complex that included other hotels, a gas station and retail stores.

— In Akron, Ohio, Siri had me turn left to get on a highway, while Google's app properly instructed me to take a ramp on the left. In Indianapolis, Google knew about a service road alongside Michigan Road, while Siri assumed I was on the main road and would have had me crash into a Chinese restaurant. In Charleston, W.Va., Siri told me to head northeast, as



These screenshots taken Monday, Oct. 1, 2012 show Apple's maps app on an iPhone, left, and Google's on an Android device during a drive in Dearborn, Mich. Associated Press

if I had a compass, while Google just told me to turn left.

— Besides public transit directions, Google offered options for avoiding tolls or highways while driving. It allowed me to choose continuous satellite images instead of animated maps, while Apple's app offered them only for route overviews, not for live navigation.

— While Siri's voice sounds much more human than the one Google used in its early mapping apps, Google now has a voice that makes Siri sound robotic by comparison. Google also was more sparing with words, which was good as long as I didn't get lost for lack of detail.

That said, Apple's map offers 3-D views. That may sound like a gimmick, but it

presents the map in a way that mirrors what you're seeing through the windshield. On Apple's map, the direction you're going is on top in the regular view or toward the back in 3-D. Outside of big cities, Google often has north on top, which can be confusing when driving east or south.

Apple's maps are also more pleasant to view. Instructions such as "turn right onto Pearl St." are in white against a green background, similar to the signs you see on highways. Street names at intersections are in a green rectangle, similar to actual street signs at corners. Unlike Google's, Apple's app showed me the distance and time remaining and an estimated time of arrival all at once, though I would have appreciated larger text. □

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Stocks close week mixed on jobs data

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

A big drop in the U.S. unemployment rate wasn't enough for investors Friday. Stocks posted gains early in the day but faded to a mixed close.

The Labor Department said the unemployment rate had declined to 7.8 percent, its first dip below 8 percent in nearly four years. The decline from 8.1 percent the month before was bigger than economists had expected.

Stocks rose on that news, but the gains didn't last. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 34.79 points to close at 13,610.15, after rising 86 points earlier in the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.47 points to 1,460.93, and the Nasdaq dropped 13.27 points to 3,136.19.

U.S. employers added 114,000 jobs last month. That was in line with what economists were expecting, but the government also revised its estimates higher for job growth in July and August.

The drop to 7.8 percent in the unemployment rate "really is not a big game-changer," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital. "Yes, more people were hired, but job creation did come in in line with expectations."

"The jobs report today was

just a validation that things are improving and that people are feeling good," said Marty Leclerc, chief investment officer of Barrack Yard Advisors. "So as investors, of course, that's when

milestone: its highest close since December 2007. The S&P is close, but not quite back to, its December 2007 high. The Dow and S&P had their first positive weeks after two weeks of losses. The



Trader Peter Tuchman, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Stocks ended mixed on Wall Street after the government reported that the U.S. unemployment rate fell below 8 percent for the first time in almost four years. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

we're most apprehensive." Consumer discretionary stocks rose, led by Home Depot and Lowe's, both up more than 2 percent. Industrial stocks also rose. Technology and energy stocks had broad declines.

Despite the mixed day, the Dow managed to reach a

Dow rose 1.3 percent for the week, the S&P 1.4 percent.

U.S. stocks making noteworthy moves included:

— Apple fell \$14.21, or 2.1 percent, to \$652.59, causing the Nasdaq to perform worse than other indexes.

— Zynga plunged 33 cents,

or 11.9 percent, to \$2.48 after the online game maker said that it expects a third-quarter loss due to weak demand and a charge related to an acquisition.

— Dow component Hewlett-Packard fell 21 cents to \$14.73. Moody's Investors Service said it was reviewing its investment-grade credit rating for a possible downgrade after the PC and printer maker cut its profit forecast.

— Avon Products rose \$1.17, or 7.2 percent, to \$17.39 after announcing that its chairman and former CEO Andrea Jung will step down at the end of the year. Jung had come under fire for failing to reverse the company's declines and wrap up a bribery investigation.

— Constellation Brands rose \$1.48, or 4.3 percent, to \$36.20. The wine and liquor company's quarterly results beat Wall Street's forecasts, and it raised its full-year forecast.

Stocks rose in Europe, too. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was up 0.7 percent, while Germany's DAX rose 1.3 percent and the CAC-40 in France was up 1.6 percent.

The dollar was trading steadily across a range of currencies, with the euro down slightly at \$1.303.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose to 1.73 percent from 1.68 percent as investors shifted money from bonds into stocks. □

Zynga sinks on 2012's outlook

NEW YORK (AP) — Troubled Zynga's stock is trading near its lowest level ever Friday after the online game maker behind "FarmVille" forecast a third quarter loss amid weak demand for its Web-based games. It's also taking a hefty charge related to its March acquisition of mobile game company OMGPop.

Zynga Inc., also known for "Words With Friends" and "Mafia Wars," said late Thursday that it expects to post a loss for the third quarter, largely because of the \$85 million to \$95 million charge on the OMGPop purchase. It bought the company behind "Draw Something" for \$183 million. Baird analyst Colin Sebastian said Zynga's transition from Web-based Facebook games to mobile is "more painful than expected." He downgraded the company to "Neutral" from "Outperform" and cut his target price to \$3 from \$6.

"Despite our mis-timed upgrade earlier in the summer, it is clear that Zynga will not be able to counterbalance social gaming (challenges) this year with its success in mobile and its broader network buildout," the analyst wrote in a note to investors.

Zynga is trying to reduce its dependence on Facebook, where the bulk of its games are played, by focusing on mobile games and Zynga.com, its online game network.

Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter also cut his target price, to \$4 from \$7, but kept an "Outperform" rating on Zynga. He thinks the stock has a "significant" potential to trade higher, which is why he decided not to downgrade it following the disappointing outlook.

Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia, who's been one of the most bearish analysts on Zynga and does not have a target price, said he expects "significant layoffs in the coming months" at the company. He called the size of the company's 2012 guidance reduction "surprising." □

In August:

US consumer credit up \$18.1 billion

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans boosted their borrowing in August by the largest amount in three months with strong gains in the category that covers auto and student loans and in credit card debt. Total consumer borrowing increased \$18.1 billion in August compared to July, the Federal Reserve reported Friday. In July, consumer borrowing had fallen for the first time in nearly a year.

The rebound in August along with a separate report that showed the nation's unemployment rate dropped to 7.8 percent in September were viewed as encouraging signs for an economy that has been struggling in

recent months.

The August borrowing gains reflected a \$4.2 billion increase in borrowing on credit cards and a \$13.9 billion increase in auto and student loans.

Retail sales rose in August, in part because consumers bought more cars and trucks. However, they were cautious elsewhere, as rising gas prices left them less to spend in other areas. Activity through August left total consumer debt at \$2.73 trillion, putting it 5.5 percent above the pre-recession peak for credit hit in July 2008.

Consumers have been using credit cards much less since the 2008 credit crisis. Four years ago, Americans had \$1.03 trillion in credit card debt, an all-time high. In August, that figure was

17 percent lower.

During the same period, student loan debt has increased dramatically. The category that includes auto and student loans, along with other loans for items such as boats, has jumped to a level 20.3 percent higher than July 2008. In the April-June quarter, student loans totaled \$914 billion, according to a recent report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. That is a nearly 50 percent increase from the July-September quarter of 2008.

Much of the increase in student loans is because of high unemployment, which has led many Americans to go back to school in hopes of improving their education and skills in a more competitive labor market. □



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Avon Products chairman Jung to step down

NEW YORK (AP) — Beauty products seller Avon Products said Friday that its chairman and former CEO Andrea Jung will step down at the end of the year, ending her 18-year tenure at the company.

Jung will be replaced as chairman by lead director Fred Hassan. Hassan joined the board in 1999 and has served as lead independent director since 2009. He is a managing partner at private equity firm Warburg Pincus and a former chairman and CEO of pharmaceutical company Schering-Plough Corp.

Jung will continue to be an adviser to the board. She joined Avon in 1994 and became the first woman CEO for the 126-year old company in 1999. But she

came under fire for failing to stem the company's declines and wrap up a bribery investigation.

She was replaced as CEO by Johnson & Johnson executive Sherilyn S. McCoy in April but retained her chairman title. Jung said her move to step down as chairman signals the CEO transition is complete.

Avon, whose products include Skin So Soft lotion and mark makeup, has struggled for years to turn around its results at home and in emerging markets. In August the company said its second-quarter net income fell 70 percent, hurt by the stronger dollar and lower demand globally for its makeup and skin care products.

Meanwhile, it is dealing



Avon Chairman and CEO Andrea Jung in New York. The beauty products company said Friday, Oct. 5, 2012 that Jung, who was replaced as CEO by Sherilyn S. McCoy in April, will step down at the end of the year, ending her 18-year tenure at the company. Jung will be replaced as chairman by lead director Fred Hassan.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini)

with a bribery probe. The problems began in 2008, when it started to investigate possible bribery in

China related to travel, entertainment and other expenses, and soon widened the probe to other countries, with the SEC and Justice department getting involved.

In September, the Securities and Exchange Commission decided it wouldn't recommend any action against the company over whether Avon contacted analysts inappropriately during a separate bribery investigation. But it still faces wider probes about possible bribery in China and other countries.

Shares of Avon Products Inc. rose 96 cents, or 5.9 percent to \$17.18 in morning trading. The stock had been down about 7 percent since the beginning of the year. □

Samsung sees quarterly earnings at new high

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

Samsung Electronics Co. forecast another record quarterly operating profit, likely driven by strong sales of high-end smartphones that offset weak semiconductor orders.

The guidance for Samsung's third quarter earnings showed it was on track to report a record-high profit for a fourth straight quarter, despite legal tussles with Apple Inc. that resulted in a \$1 billion compensation judgment in August.

But analysts said a rise in marketing spending will decrease the company's profit in the October-December quarter and sustaining fat margins in premium mobile devices could be increasingly tough.

Samsung estimated in a

regulatory filing that its July-September operating income nearly doubled to 8.1 trillion won (\$7.3 billion) from 4.25 trillion won a year earlier.

The result was better than the market consensus of 7.6 trillion won, according to a poll of 26 analysts by FnGuide Inc., a financial information provider.

The world's largest maker of mobile phones, memory chips and TVs estimated its quarterly revenue at 52 trillion won, up 26 percent from a year earlier and meeting expectations.

Shares of Samsung closed 0.2 percent higher in Seoul. Samsung will announce its full quarterly results including net income and a breakdown for each division toward the end of this month.

Analysts believe Samsung's mobile communications



A man walks by a billboard of Samsung Electronics's Galaxy Note II at a showroom of its headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. Samsung Electronics Co. tipped all-time high quarterly operating profit, likely driven by strong sales of high-end smartphones that offset weak semiconductor orders.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

business that sells smartphones, media players and tablet computers generated almost 70 percent of its operating profit in the last quarter. Its growth has

been driven by runaway demand for Samsung's Android-powered smartphones that outweighed weak orders for memory chips and thin margins in

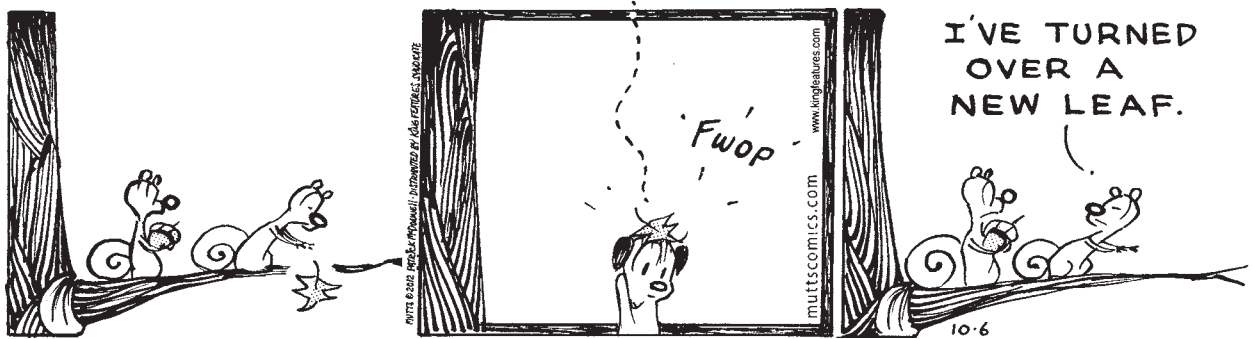
television sales. Samsung surpassed Apple and Nokia in annual smartphone sales for the first time in 2011, according to Strategy Analytics.

Nomura Securities estimates Samsung sold 60 million smartphones in the three months ended Sept. 30, including 18 million of the Galaxy S III. That is above 50 million smartphones that Samsung is believed to have sold in April-June. The company doesn't release its quarterly smartphone sales.

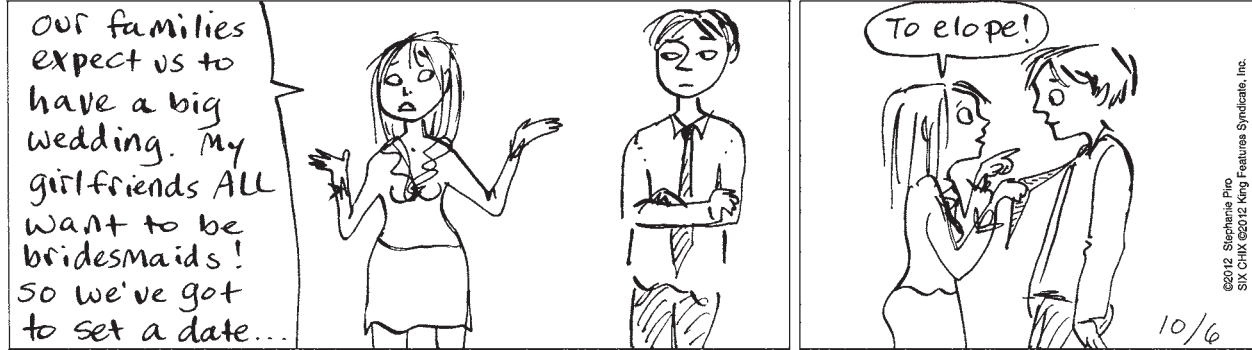
Robust sales of high-end smartphones also contribute to the profitability of Samsung's other divisions that supply lucrative mobile components used in the gadgets.

"Smartphones are the driving force behind the record-high profit," said Lee Seung-woo, an analyst at IBK Securities. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



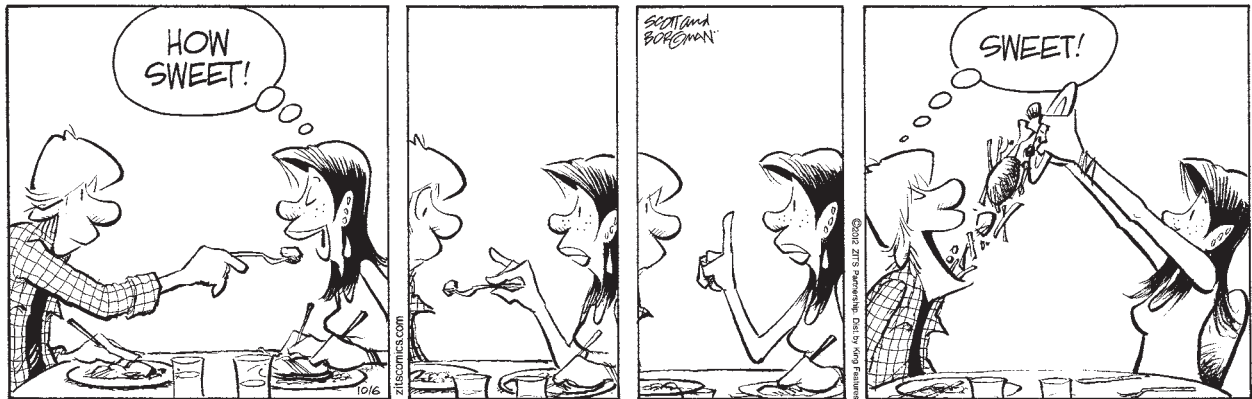
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7		3	5			
			2		8	1		
	4							7
5	7						3	
2			4					9
	9						7	8
9							5	
		4	7		9			
			6	1		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/06

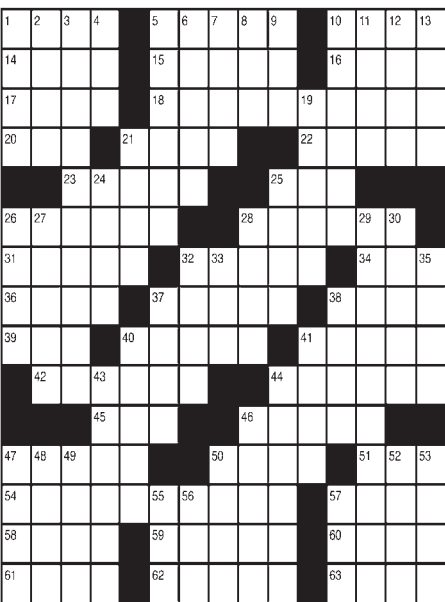
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	6	3	2	5	1	9	7	4
9	7	2	8	4	6	1	3	5
1	4	5	9	3	7	2	8	6
2	1	9	4	6	3	7	5	8
4	8	6	7	2	5	3	9	1
5	3	7	1	9	8	4	6	2
6	5	4	3	7	2	8	1	9
7	9	1	5	8	4	6	2	3
3	2	8	6	1	9	5	4	7

ACROSS

- 1 Actor ___ Nolte
 - 5 Tiny oval fruit on a relish tray
 - 10 Reach across
 - 14 Arthur of tennis
 - 15 Religious doctrine
 - 16 Piece of evidence
 - 17 Make arrangements
 - 18 ___ to; of the same value as
 - 20 Hatch or Feinstein: abbr.
 - 21 Launch sites
 - 22 Removes from office
 - 23 Sketches
 - 25 Tavern
 - 26 Girl's name
 - 28 Population survey
 - 31 Actress Berry
 - 32 Regions
 - 34 Oslo's nation: abbr.
 - 36 Wicked
 - 37 Paddle
 - 38 German wife
 - 39 Female deer
 - 40 Snoozed
 - 41 Looks for
 - 42 Wooden boxes
 - 44 Word in a polite request
 - 45 Female pig
 - 46 Youngster
 - 47 Deep rift in the earth's surface
 - 50 Street
 - 51 Spring month: abbr.
 - 54 Parties after weddings
 - 57 Capable
 - 58 Weapons
 - 59 Saying
 - 60 Hopping insect
 - 61 Hive residents
 - 62 Wanderer
 - 63 Dodgers or Yankees, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 Short rests
 - 2 ___ of Capri
 - 3 Hanging light fixture
 - 4 Barbie's beau
 - 5 Canada's capital
 - 6 Goes first
 - 7 Hostels
 - 8 11/11 honoree
 - 9 Greek letter
 - 10 Scrubs
 - 11 In addition to
 - 12 Dad's sister
 - 13 Earns, after expenses
 - 19 Complains
 - 21 Lacking vivid color
 - 24 Small brook
 - 25 Bird's bill
 - 26 Lean-to
 - 27 Chaos
 - 28 Penny
 - 29 Illegible
 - 30 ___ up; absorbs
 - 32 Reticules
 - 33 Dr. Dre's music
 - 35 Trick
 - 37 Killed
 - 38 Have a hunch



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/6/12

Friday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	N	E	D	S	P	A	T	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
I	R	E	N	E	T	A	L	E	A	B	L	E			
R	O	A	R	S	O	N	E	S	S	A	U	L			
E	N	T	I	C	I	N	G	T	A	S	S	E	L		
C	E	D	E	F	E	N	D	E	R	S					
D	A	P	H	N	E	A	L	D	E	R					
I	R	E	D	A	F	F	Y	W	U	R	S	T			
P	E	E	P	L	U	T	E	S	M	E	N	U			
S	A	R	A	H	S	E	R	U	M		N	O	R		
L	A	S	E	R	D	I	S	O	W	N					
R	E	B	A	T	E	S	P	A	N	E					
A	R	E	T	H	A	S	A	N	D	T	R	A	P		
D	A	L	I	L	E	A	P	S	T	O	V	E			
A	S	I	A	E	M	M	A	E	L	B	O	W			
R	E	E	L	D	U	E	L	T	E	E	N	S			

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10/6/12

- 40 Pound the foot on the ground
- 41 Went down easily
- 43 Evaluate
- 44 ___ out; got rid of gradually
- 46 Cuban line dance
- 47 Grouchy one
- 48 In this place
- 49 Pinnacle
- 50 Meander
- 52 Entreaty
- 53 Enlarge a hole
- 55 Light brown
- 56 Wedding words
- 57 Fore and ___

Assuring the care of a family member with special needs

RON LIEBER

© 2012 New York Times

With each passing election season, the conversations about the cost of government-provided health care and Social Security get more urgent.

But debates about the deserving and the undeserving and the proper level of budgets and taxes tend to gloss over discussion of the disabled – a group of people who have no choice but to hope that the programs don't suffer cuts because they often don't have any way to make up for the cuts.

There are 5.5 million non-elderly adults with disabilities whose health care was covered by Medicaid in 2009, according to a Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation estimate using the most recent numbers available. And an estimated 6.9 million nonelderly disabled people receive Social Security payments under the Supplemental Security Income program, according to federal government figures.

For every one of those people (and many draw from multiple sources of government aid), there are often several family members helping to sort out the financial side of that relative's care. They navigate a confounding thicket of tasks and rules. On one hand, there's the bureaucracy that government program administrators may erect at any moment. On the other, there are specialized trust accounts and estate planning issues to consider. Even sophisticated investors and ace budgeters find themselves utterly lost when encountering all of this for the first time.

There are few well-marked road maps for any of this, as there is for those trying to invest their 401(k) money or refinance a mortgage. But there are a growing number of financial advisers and other profession-



Jerry Ruffenberg, a financial planner, and his brain-injured son, Seth, at Seth's assisted living home in Wynnewood, Pa., Oct. 3, 2012. A large amount of tasks and rules face people who are trying to sort out the financial side of long-term care for a physically or developmentally disabled family member.

(Ryan Collard/The New York Times)

als who themselves have special needs children or siblings. Because they've been there, they know the practical steps that most families need to take.

What follows is a primer from those practitioners on the basics that most every family ought to consider when helping someone with special needs.

YOU FIRST

When Mike Walther II talks to families for the first time in his work as a financial planner in Deerfield, Ill., he often parrots the standard flight attendant announcement at the beginning of each trip: Put your oxygen mask on first before worrying about the family member next to you.

Walther, who has a brother with Asperger's syndrome who lives with their parents, said he sometimes saw par-

ents who had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on therapies for their child and arrived in his office with no retirement savings at the age of 50.

"That's a loving thing," he said. "But now you have another problem. There is nothing for you. That special needs kid is dependent on you guys, and now you can't support yourself."

THE TEAM

Once you know what challenges family members face – and it can sometimes take years to understand what limitations they may have and what kind of financial support they will need – it's probably wise to resist the urge to hunker down and sort it all out yourself.

"Life is totally rearranged," said Mary Anne Ehler, a financial planner in Lincoln-

shire, Ill. Her late sister had cerebral palsy, and Ehler also runs a service called Protected Tomorrows that advises families on the life planning tasks beyond the financial issues.

She hopes to one day have a large team of affiliated financial planners around the country who are all experts on serving special needs families. In the meantime, there are networks of lawyers with directories of members who can help with some of the tasks, including the Academy of Special Needs Planners and the Special Needs Alliance.

Your best source of advice and referrals to local experts may well be your fellow travelers, so be sure to seek out other families with relatives in similar situations as yours to see who has helped them with their planning. □

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sleeps 4, late aug wk 34 \$3500
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Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Tel: 583-5400

MANSUR MIROVALEV

MOSCOW (AP) — A teenage mammoth who once roamed the Siberian tundra in search of fodder and females might have been killed by an Ice Age man on a summer day tens of thousands of years ago, a Russian scientist said Friday. Prof. Alexei Tikhonov of the Zoology Institute in St. Petersburg announced the finding of the mammoth, which was excavated from the Siberian permafrost in late September near the Sopochynaya Karga cape, 2,200 miles northeast of Moscow. The 16-year-old mammoth has been named Jenya, after the 11-year-old Russian boy who found the animal's limbs sticking out of the frozen mud. The mammoth was 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighed 1,100 pounds. "He was pretty small for his age," Tikhonov told The Associated Press.

But what killed Jenya was not his size but a missing left tusk that made him unfit for fights with other mammoths or human hunters.



In this handout photo provided by The International Mammoth Committee in Russia on Friday Oct. 5, 2012, the carcass of a 16-year-old mammoth that was possibly killed by humans tens of thousands of years ago and was excavated on the North Siberian Taimyr peninsula in late Sept. 28, 2012. Russian scientists say it's one of the best-preserved bodies of a grown mammoth yet found.

who were settling the Siberian marshes and swamps some 20,000-30,000 years ago, Tikhonov said. The splits on Jenya's remaining tusk show a "possible human touch," he added. The examination of Jenya's body has already proved that the massive humps on mammoths seen on Ice Age cave paintings in Spain and France were not extended bones but huge chunks of fat that helped them regulate their body temperatures and survive the long, cold winters, Tikhonov said. Jenya's hump was relative-

ly big, which means that he died during a short Arctic summer, he said. Up to 13 feet in height and 10 tons in weight, mammoths migrated across huge areas between Great Britain and North America and were driven to extinction by humans and the changing climate. Woolly mammoths are thought to have died out around 10,000 years ago, although scientists think small groups of them lived longer in Alaska and on Russia's Wrangel Island off the Siberian coast. Their bodies have mostly

been found in the Siberian permafrost. Siberian cultural myths paint them as primordial creatures who

moved underground and helped to create the Earth. Most of the well-preserved mammoths are calves. Jenya's carcass is the best-preserved one since the 1901 discovery of a giant mammoth near the Beryozovka river in Russia's northeastern Yakutia region, Tikhonov said. Unfortunately, its DNA has been damaged by low temperatures and is "hardly" suitable for possible cloning, he said. However, an earlier mammoth discovery might be able to help recreate the Ice Age elephant. Russia's North-Eastern Federal University said in early September that an international team of researchers had discovered mammoth hair, soft tissues and bone marrow some 328 feet underground during a summer expedition in Yakutia. □

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mars Curiosity is about to take its first sip of the red planet's sand. But only after NASA's rover plays bartender to make sure the dry dust is shaken, not stirred.

The rover's scoop will dig into the sand Saturday. Then the action starts. The end of the rover's 220-pound arm will shake "at a nice tooth-rattling vibration level" for eight hours, like a Martian martini mixer gone mad, said mission sampling chief Daniel Limonadi said.

"It kind of looks and feels like if you open the hood of your car with the engine running," Limonadi said, making engine noises in a Thursday NASA telephone press conference. That heavy shaking will vibrate the fine dust grains through the rover chemical testing system to cleanse it of unwanted residual Earth grease. That's important for the sensitive scientific instruments that are the keystone to the \$2.5 billion mission that launched last year.

The rover landed in August and has traveled three-tenths of a mile, taking pictures and analyzing the Martian air. For the next week or two, Curiosity will scoop, shake and dump sand out three times, like a robotic version of cleaning its mouth out with mouthwash, Limonadi said. □



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Meryl Streep donates \$1M to The Public Theatre

NEW YORK (AP) — Meryl Streep has donated \$1 million to The Public Theater in honor of both its late founder, Joseph Papp, and her friend, the author Nora Ephron.

The announcement was timed to Thursday's unveiling of the nonprofit's \$40 million renovation to its 158-year-old headquarters in New York.

Streep has performed for the Public for decades, starting in 1975 and including "Henry V" in 1976 and "Mother Courage and Her Children" in 2006. This summer, she played Juliet opposite Kevin Kline as Romeo in a benefit reading of "Romeo and Juliet" in Central Park.

Ephron, who died in June, directed Streep in her portrayal of chef Julia Child in 2009's "Julie & Julia." Streep played a version of Ephron herself in 1986's



This Aug. 6, 2012 file photo originally released by Starpix show actress Meryl Streep at the premiere of the Columbia Pictures film "Hope Springs," at the SVA Theatre in New York. Associated Press

"Heartburn."

"Meryl is as great a citizen as she is an actor," said Oskar Eustis, artistic director of the theater. "Joe Papp founded The Public in the belief that great theater belonged to all the people. It means an enormous amount to us that the greatest actor of our time supports that mission." □

Mel Brooks to receive AFI life achievement honor

CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It'll be springtime for Mel Brooks when the American Film Institute presents him with its highest honor, the Life Achievement Award.

The writer and director of comedy classics including "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and "History of the World: Part I" will receive the award at a gala tribute next June, AFI announced Friday.

The 86-year-old Brooks is the 41st recipient of the honor, which has gone to Hollywood legends including Orson Welles, Bette Davis, Elizabeth Taylor, Steven Spielberg, Meryl Streep and Morgan Freeman. He's one of only 14 people to have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award.



This Nov. 7, 2009 file photo originally released by the Breeders' Cup shows Mel Brooks arriving at the 26th Running of the Breeders' Cup World Championships in Santa Anita, Calif. Associated Press

The AFI ceremony will air in late June on TNT and Turner Classic Movies. □

Man named 1st 'Price Is Right' male model

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. man has won an online competition to become the first male model in "The Price Is Right" game show history.

The long-running CBS show said Friday that viewers had chosen Rob Wilson from three finalists.

Wilson begins his weeklong

stint on Oct. 15 alongside the female models the show is known for.

Hundreds of hopefuls showed up at the open call in Los Angeles.

The show has been on the air since September 1972.

"The Price Is Right" is hosted by Drew Carey. □



This undated image from video shows Rob Wilson, of Boston, who was chosen in an online competition to be the first male model on the popular daytime game show, "The Price Is Right." Associated Press

Chazz Palminteri brings his advice to radio



This Aug. 27, 2012 photo shows actor Chazz Palminteri posing during an interview in New York. Palminteri is taking to the airwaves with "Ask Chazz," a four-week series of live, call-in shows on SiriusXM Radio, where callers can seek advice on a variety of topics including the entertainment business and relationships. Associated Press

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In his autobiographical movie and subsequent play, "A Bronx Tale," Chazz Palminteri doles out lots of advice as a young man learns from two father figures. Now the writer-actor-director is taking his advice skills to the airwaves with "Ask Chazz," a four-week series of live, call-in shows on SiriusXM Radio, where callers will get Palminteri's thoughts on a variety of topics, including entertainment business and relationships. "It's like life lessons told in a street-savvy way," the actor said. "People say I have my own Chazz-isms. That's why I started the web site, Ask Chazz."

The online advice site caught the attention of SiriusXM President Scott Greenstein, who suggested Palminteri try his hand at a live call-in show. It airs every Wednesday in October. Don't expect someone along the lines of Dear Abby or Ann Landers. Instead, the 60-year-old actor feels he's more like the young hero of "A Bronx Tale," navigating between his father and the gangster he admires.

"Everybody has a dilemma between right

and wrong and good and evil, and not knowing what evil looks like sometimes," Palminteri said. He added that giving advice comes naturally to him: "One time I wanted to be a shrink. I'm very honest in my opinion." Palminteri said he'll be offering advice, insight and perspective on everything from show business to the business of life.

There's a scene in "Bronx Tale" where Palminteri's character suggests a test to find out if a girl is a good match. He tells a young man to lock the car doors when he picks her up, and to open the passenger door for her. After that he should walk around the

car.

Palminteri's character advises: "If she doesn't reach over and lift up the button, that means she's selfish and all you're seeing is the tip of the iceberg."

Though not in the movie, Palminteri suggests a similar test for women.

"When a guy drops the woman off at her door, he should wait for her to go inside. And if he leaves before her door closes, then he's out," Palminteri said.

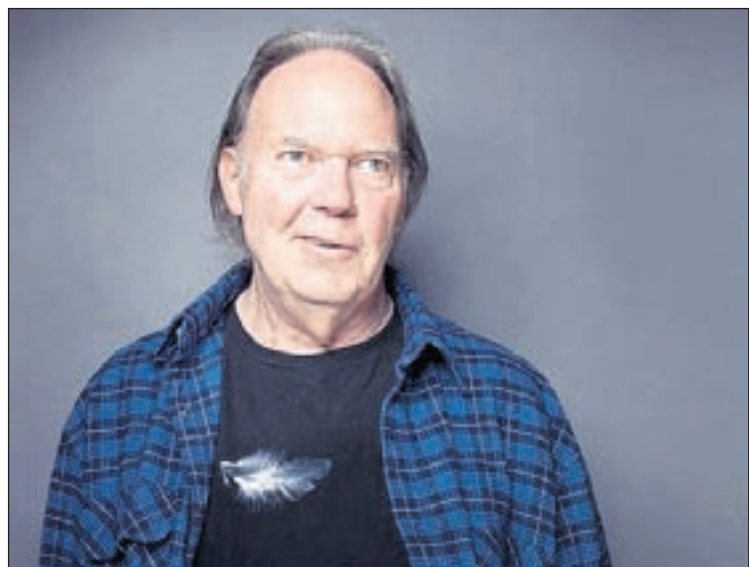
As for his need to want to share information with people, Palminteri remembered the person that helped him finally become a star in his late 30s.

"Robert De Niro helped me. He gave me my first big break, and I never forgot it," Palminteri said, referring to De Niro seeing him perform his one-man show, "A Bronx Tale," in an off-Broadway theater.

In the spirit of "paying back," Palminteri wants young actors to send him a one-minute monologue via his web site, which he will keep on file and pass on to potential producers.

"I love helping young talent," Palminteri said. □

Broken toe spurs Neil Young to write 1st book



This Sept. 27, 2012 photo shows singer-songwriter Neil Young posing for a portrait at The Carlyle hotel in New York. Young has released his first book, a memoir titled, "Waging Heavy Peace." Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Young's fans have come to expect wild swings if they've followed his music career since the 1960s. There's the near-violent guitar solos and throbbing rock of his collaborations with Crazy Horse. Lifting acoustic melodies like "Harvest Moon." Electronic experiments. Moments of genius and ill-advised detours.

No one should be surprised that reading his first book, the memoir "Waging Heavy Peace," should feel exactly the same.

Young's scatter-shot style includes a description of Crazy Horse as a living organism that illustrates an artistic sensibility better than any non-musician can, along with a recitation of a shopping trip he took once in Hawaii and praise for his electric toothbrush.

He generally avoids specific talk about songwriting. Yet he candidly admits that his song "Alabama," a trigger for Lynyrd Skynyrd's answer "Sweet Home Alabama," was ill-advised. Young's passions — his family, electric trains, cars and a system to sonically improve digital music files — get as much space as music.

"If you hang out with somebody, the conversation doesn't always run out in a linear fashion, from A to B," he said. "It's what's on their minds. Things happen. You see things out the window, you get interested in that. You get distracted by things. I always thought that was a natural way to go with it."

Ultimately, a reader learns more about Young than they would if he had a ghostwriter's help, a notion he practically snorts at in disdain. "That's a scary damn idea," he said, "having a ghost in the house."

Some free time and a broken toe led the 66-year-old Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member into the project. It was in his blood. Young's father, who died in 2005, was a well-known journalist and author in Canada. Young has always been a careful steward of his musical history and it's little surprise he'd want to look back at his life in the same way. "My whole M.O. for doing the book was that it was going to be off the top of my head," he said. "I wasn't going to spend any time trying to organize anything. That's always worked for me with everything else I've done."

He also wrote with a clear head, swearing off alcohol and marijuana, the latter due to a doctor's advice and fear that continued use could lead him into dementia, which his father suffered from.

That was no easy decision. Young said he wrote virtually all of his songs while high and wondered if he could without the crutch. □



This image released by HBO shows Michael McMillian, left, and Denis O'Hare in a scene from "True Blood." Associated Press

Study finds rise in gay characters on network TV

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of gay and bisexual characters on scripted broadcast network TV is at its highest-ever level in the season ahead, according to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. The total on cable television is also going up. The 17th annual "Where We Are on TV" report, released Friday, found that 4.4 percent of actors appearing regularly on prime-time network drama and comedy series during the 2012-13 season will portray lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender characters.

That is up from 2.9 percent in 2011, which saw a dip in what had been a growing annual trend.

The study reviewed 97 scripted TV programs scheduled to air in the upcoming season on the broadcast networks, counting a total of 701 series regular characters.

The study found that 31 of them are LGBT characters. ABC has the highest

amount, with 10 out of 194, or 5.2 percent, of their regular characters identified as LGBT.

After leading last year, Fox ranks second with six LGBT characters out of 118 total series regulars, or 5.1 percent.

CBS was saluted as much improved, with four out of 142 LGBT series regulars, or 2.8 percent, up from 0.7 percent last year.

Among CBS's new fall series is "Partners," a comedy about two childhood friends and business partners, one of whom is gay and in a relationship. The network's lineup represents "an authentic and conscious effort by CBS to improve its diversity," the study said.

Regular gay and lesbian characters on what the study termed "mainstream" cable television has also risen this season to 35, up from 29 last season.

Among those networks, Showtime leads with 12 LGBT characters. The study also cited HBO, FX, Adult Swim, ABC Family, MTV, Syfy

and TeenNick.

The HBO drama "True Blood" remains cable's most inclusive series, featuring six LGBT characters.

On broadcast TV, male characters (64 percent) continue to outweigh female characters (36 percent, including the transgender character Unique on "Glee").

Compared with last year, African-American representation has grown from 9.9 percent to 12 percent, while Hispanic representation has decreased from 5.6 percent to 4.1 percent.

"It is vital for networks to weave complex and diverse story lines of LGBT people in the different programs they air," said GLAAD President Herndon Graddick.

"More and more Americans have come to accept their LGBT family members, friends, co-workers and peers, and as audiences tune into their favorite programs, they expect to see the same diversity of people they encounter in their daily lives." □

Romney's Sick Joke



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2012 New York Times

"No. 1," declared Mitt Romney in Wednesday's debate, "pre-existing conditions are covered under my plan." No, they aren't – as Romney's own advisers have conceded in the past, and did again after the debate.

Was Romney lying? Well, either that or he was making what amounts to a sick joke. Either way, his attempt to deceive voters on this issue was the biggest of many misleading and/or dishonest claims he made over the course of that hour and a half. Yes, President Barack Obama did a notably bad job of responding. But I'll leave the theater criticism to others and talk instead about the issue that should be at the heart of this election.

So, about that sick joke: What Romney actually proposes is that Americans with pre-existing conditions who already have health coverage be allowed to keep that coverage even if they lose their job – as long as they keep paying the premiums. As it happens, this is already the law of the land. But it's not what anyone in real life means by having a health plan that covers pre-existing conditions, because it applies only to those who manage to land a job with health insurance in the first place (and are able to maintain their payments despite losing that job). Did I mention that the number of jobs that come with health insurance has been steadily declining over the past decade?

What Romney did in the debate, in other words, was, at best, to play a word game with voters, pretending to offer something substantive for the uninsured while actually offering nothing. For all practical purposes, he simply lied about what his policy proposals would do.

How many Americans would be left out in the cold under Romney's plan? One answer is 89 million. According to the non-partisan Commonwealth Foundation, that's the number of Americans who lack the "continuous coverage" that would make them eligible for health insurance under Romney's empty promises. By the way, that's more than a third of the U.S. population under 65 years old.

Another answer is 45 million, the estimated number of people who would have health insurance if Obama were re-elected, but would lose it if Romney were to win.

That estimate reflects two factors. First, Romney proposes repealing the Affordable Care Act, which means doing away with all the ways in which that law would help tens of millions of Americans who either have pre-existing conditions or can't afford health insurance for other reasons. Second, Romney is proposing drastic cuts in Medicaid – basically to save money that he could use to cut taxes on the wealthy – which would deny essential health care to millions more Americans. (And, no, despite what he has said, you can't get the care you need just by going to the emergency room.)

Wait, it gets worse. The true number of victims from Romney's health proposals would be much larger than either of these numbers, for a couple of reasons.

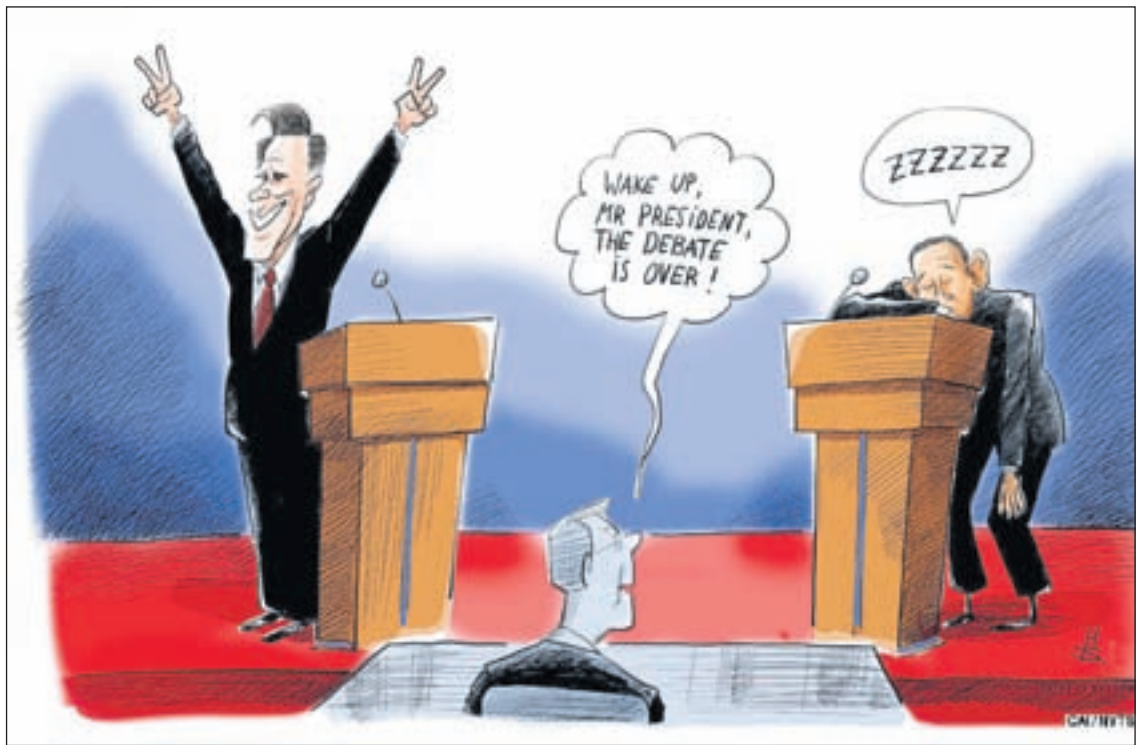
One is that Medicaid doesn't just provide health care to Americans too young for Medicare; it also pays for nursing care and other necessities for many older Americans.

Also, many Americans have health insurance but live under the continual threat of losing it. Obamacare would eliminate this threat, but Romney would bring it back and make it worse. Safety nets don't just help people who actually fall, they make life more secure for everyone who might fall. But Romney would take that security away, not just on health care but across the board.

What about the claim made by a Romney adviser after the debate that states could step in to guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions? That's nonsense on many levels. For one thing, Romney wants to eliminate restrictions on interstate insurance sales, depriving states of regulatory power. Furthermore, if all you do is require that insurance companies cover everyone, healthy people will wait until they're sick to sign up, leading to sky-high premiums. So you need to couple regulations on insurers with a requirement that everyone have insurance. And, to make that feasible, you have to offer insurance subsidies to lower-income Americans, which have to be paid for at a federal level.

And what you end up with is – precisely – the health reform Obama signed into law.

One could wish that Obama had made this point effectively in the debate. He had every right to jump up and say, "There you go again": Not only was



Why Let The Rich Hoard All The Toys?



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2012 New York Times

Imagine a kindergarten with 100 students, lavishly supplied with books, crayons and toys.

Yet you gasp: One avaricious little boy is jealously guarding a mountain of toys for himself. A handful of other children are quietly playing with a few toys each, while 90 of the children are looking on forlornly – empty-handed.

The one greedy boy has hoarded more toys than all those 90 children put together!

"What's going on?" you ask. "Let's learn to share! One child shouldn't hog everything for himself!"

The greedy little boy looks at you, indignant. "Do you believe in redistribution?" he asks suspiciously, his lips curling in contempt. "I don't want to share. This is America!"

And then he summons his private security firm and has you dragged off the premises. Well, maybe not, but you get the point.

That kindergarten distribution is precisely what America looks like. Our wealth has become so

skewed that the top 1 percent possesses a greater collective worth than the entire bottom 90 percent, according to the Economic Policy Institute in Washington.

This inequality is a central challenge for the United States today and should be getting far more attention in this presidential campaign. A few snapshots:

— The six heirs of Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, own as much wealth as the bottom 100 million Americans.

— In 2010, 93 percent of the gain in national income went to the top 1 percent.

— America's Gini coefficient, the classic measure of inequality, set a modern record last month – the highest since the Great Depression.

This dismal ground is explored in an important and smart new book, "The Price of Inequality," by Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel laureate who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Bill Clinton. It's a searing read.

"We are paying a high price for our inequality – an economic system that is less stable and less efficient, with less growth," Stiglitz warns.

The problem is not that the rich are venal or immoral, and I buy into the Chinese mantra of the reform era: "To get rich is glorious." But today's level of inequality is unusual by American historical and global standards alike, and, as Stiglitz notes, evidence is mounting that inequality at the levels we've reached stifles growth and employment.

As I see it, the best way to create a more equitable society wouldn't be Robin Hood-style redistribution, but a focus on inner-city and rural education – includ-

ing early childhood programs – and job-training. That approach would expand opportunity, even up the starting line, and chip away at cycles of poverty. If the cost means forcing tycoons to pay modestly higher taxes, so be it. The economy wouldn't suffer.

After all, the United States enjoyed strong growth in the 1950s when we were a more egalitarian country, even though the top income tax rate in that decade was always more than 90 percent.

Indeed, it was only in 1987 that the top income tax rate dropped below 50 percent in the United States. So the 15 percent rate that some tycoons pay because of the carried interest loophole is a recent, er, entitlement.

On this issue, Americans seem by intuition to be flaming lefties. A study published last year by scholars from Harvard Business School and Duke University asked Americans which country they would rather live in – one with America's wealth distribution or one with Sweden's. But they weren't labeled Sweden and America. It turned out that more than 90 percent of Americans preferred to live in a country with the Swedish distribution.

Perhaps nothing gets done because, in polls, Americans hugely underestimate the level of inequality here. Not only do we aspire to live in Sweden, but we think we already do.

It's also troubling that a considerable share of wealth today comes from the plutocratic version of welfare.

Mitt Romney, for example, became rich in private equity, as did many barons of finance. They're smart, entrepreneurial and hard-working business executives. But private equity exists largely because of tax advantages for corporate debt that amount to a huge subsidy.

Drought's toll on U.S. farm families immeasurable



Cows stand in the shade of a tree on Carl Bettels' farm in Butler, Mo., Sept. 24, 2012. Farm families throughout the parched Great Plains and Middle West are determining just how devastating the dry spell has been on their personal livelihoods. (Dan Gill/The New York Times)

JOHN ELIGON

© 2012 New York Times

BUTLER, Mo. — They have canceled vacations. Their children are forgoing out-of-state colleges for cheaper ones close to home. They are delaying doctor's visits, selling off land handed down through generations and resisting luxuries like new smartphones.

And then there is the stress — sleepless nights, grumpiness and, in one extreme case, seizures.

Lost amid the withered crops, dehydrated cattle and depleted ponds that have come to symbolize the country's most widespread drought in decades has been the toll on families whose livelihoods depend on farming.

Although most are not in danger of losing their homes or going hungry, the drought is threatening the way of life in rural America. "You probably can't print our mood," said Dallis Basel, a sheep rancher in western South Dakota who sold off half of his herd because of the high feed prices caused by the drought. "It's been kind of depressed. Like the wife says, she can't drink enough to dull the pain of selling all the sheep."

Adding to the uncertainty has been Congress' failure to pass a farm bill; the pre-

vious version expired Sunday. Although crop farmers will still get their insurance payments, livestock producers are now without an equivalent safety net. While lawmakers are expected to pass a farm bill after the November election, that might be too late for livestock producers, several of whom said they were losing tens of thousands of dollars a week because they were paying more to feed their animals than they were getting when they sold them.

In the short term, the agriculture industry might appear healthy — the government estimates that net farm income will top \$122 billion this year, the highest level since 1973. But much of the financial impact of the crisis will be felt next year, when farmers start realizing their diminished revenue.

Despite the dire outlook, interviews with nearly three dozen farmers in the middle of the country revealed a curious sense of calm.

"My granddad wasn't a worrier, my dad wasn't a worrier, I'm not either," said Kent Woolfolk, 56, a cattle farmer in southwestern Kansas. "You got to be concerned, but if you dwell on it, it's just going to eat you up."

He added: "It will rain. It always has."

Positive outlook aside, the farmers are still plotting their survival, asking their banks for more money or adjusted loan terms, tapping the equity in their land and scaling back their spending at home.

"They say, 'What are my alternatives?'" said R. Warren Graeff, the agricultural banking market manager with PNC. "What things do I have to take into consid-

eration to survive?"

For Carl Bettels, one of those things might include returning to a nonfarming job. Bettels, 57, had figured that another three years working at Wal-Mart would have given him enough savings to focus comfortably on farming in western Missouri for the rest of his life. But Wal-Mart laid him off last October, and because of the drought, it seems as though his farm income will not be enough to sustain his family. Anticipating a \$40,000 drop in earnings this year, he and his wife have been forced to dip into a retirement fund to pay their daughter's college expenses.

On a recent morning, Bettels stood on his 560 acres, where he has about 130 cows as well as crops that produced a quarter of their normal yields this year, and reflected on his life as the grass of his pasture crunched underfoot, a brisk wind blew and a chorus of bugs chirped.

Bettels' wife, Theresa, who works at a local school, said that although she sometimes wished that they had a steadier income, she understood that this was her husband's passion. But that patience may not last forever.

"If it's doing this for the next

two years, I can't see us being able to keep going," she said.

Nearly two-thirds of the continental United States is in moderate to exceptional drought, according to the government, the most widespread dryness in five and a half decades. The drought has gradually expanded to leave half of the nation's corn in poor to very poor condition. A government survey last month estimated national average yields of 122.8 bushels of corn per acre, the lowest in more than 15 years, while soybean yields are expected to drop by about 15 percent from last year.

The diminished supply has meant skyrocketing prices, which are good for whatever crops the farmers can collect on but not so good for livestock farmers who must buy the crops to feed their animals.

Dawn and John Habeck's dairy farm in South Dakota, already dwindling because of changes in the region's dairy industry, has been pushed to the brink of failure by the drought. Even though they sold all but 30 of their 350 cows last year, they cannot afford to feed the remainder because prices have increased five-fold this year, Dawn Habeck said. □



Wayne Boschert inspects his corn field in St. Charles, Mo., Aug. 16, 2012. Farm families throughout the parched Great Plains and Middle West are determining just how devastating the dry spell has been on their personal livelihoods. (Dilip Vishwanat/The New York Times)